

HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

Book Notes

The Utopian Communist: A Biography of Wilhelm Weitling, Nineteenth Century Reformer. By Carl Wittke. (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1950. \$4.50.) Those who have read George Schulz-Behrend's article, "Communia, Iowa: A Nineteenth-Century German-American Utopia," in the January, 1950, issue of the *IOWA JOURNAL OF HISTORY*, will be interested in this new biography of Wilhelm Weitling, one of the leading spirits at Communia. Professor Wittke's biography of Weitling covers the social background of the period and the work of Weitling as a "nineteenth-century reformer." One chapter is devoted to the experiment at Communia.

Captain Sam Grant. By Lloyd Lewis. (Boston, Little, Brown & Co., 1950. \$6.00.) Lloyd Lewis was at work on a projected four-volume biography of Ulysses S. Grant at the time of his death in April of 1949. *Captain Sam Grant*, the story of Grant's early years, is the only volume completed, and has been chosen as a selection of the History Book Club. "Sam" Grant, as he was known at West Point, had failed at almost everything he undertook up to the outbreak of the Civil War, from which he was to emerge as one of America's great generals. This biography of these years of failure throws new light on his youth and early manhood.

Young America, 1830-1840. By Robert E. Riegel. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1949. \$5.00.) America in the 1830's was an "adolescent," much given to bragging, sure of future progress, and living in the midst of rapid changes in social and economic life. Dr. Riegel, in his study of this decade, gives a lively picture of "Young America" at work, at home, and at play.

Catalogues and Counters: A History of Sears, Roebuck and Company. By Boris Emmet & John E. Jeuck. (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1950. \$7.50.) Richard W. Sears began business in 1886, selling watches by mail; in 1948 Sears, Roebuck and Company was the largest retailer of

general merchandise in the United States, with a sales volume exceeding two billion dollars. The authors have made an exhaustive study of the growth of one of the important American business enterprises and have produced a valuable contribution to economic history.

Pigs: From Cave to Corn Belt. By Charles Wayland Towne and Edward Norris Wentworth. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1950. \$4.00.) This is a lively account of the pig from primitive boar to the modern highly-bred animal of the Corn Belt. Feeling that the pig, so important in the American economy, should receive as much attention as horses, cattle, and sheep, about whom many books have been written, the authors have produced a work which combines scholarship and humor in an economic history of the pig in American agriculture.

Frontier Justice. By Wayne Gard. (Norman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1949. \$3.75.) Stories of frontier outlaws and sheriffs are part of the American heritage. *Frontier Justice* is a study of the transition, in the West and Southwest, from tomahawk to blood feuds, and from vigilante committees to the law enforcement of rangers, sheriffs, and judges. Mr. Gard has done a great deal of research in manuscripts, public records, and newspapers, and the story he has to tell is, therefore, authentic as well as colorful.

Articles

Dr. Earle D. Ross of Iowa State College has contributed an article to the April, 1950, issue of *Agricultural History*: "A Neglected Source of Corn Belt History: Prime's Model Farms."

The second number of the new historical magazine, *American Heritage* (Winter, 1950) is devoted to the centennial of Minnesota. In addition to several articles on Minnesota, there are also articles on the Chicago Railroad Fair, the oil industry, and Colonial Williamsburg, all profusely illustrated. The Spring, 1950, issue deals with California's "100 golden years," plus articles on American folk heroes, explorers of the Ohio River, and the Freedom Train.

Two articles of interest in the Spring, 1950, issue of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* are "The Frontier in Illinois History," by

Ray A. Billington, and "Changing Urban Patterns in the Mississippi Valley," by Bessie Louise Pierce.

Part XI of "The Pictorial Record of the Old West," by Robert Taft, deals with the work of Joseph Becker, Harry Ogden, and Walter Yeager and appears in the May, 1950, issue of *The Kansas Historical Quarterly*. Other articles in the same issue are: "A Review of Early Navigation of the Kansas River," and "The First Survey of the Kansas River," both by Edgar Langsdorf; and the conclusion of "Lincoln College, Forerunner of Washburn Municipal University," by Russell K. Hickman.

That the supposed plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln as he passed through Baltimore on his way to his inauguration in 1861 was merely a scheme of the detective, Allen Pinkerton, to advertise himself is the theme of Edward Stanley Lanis' article, "Allen Pinkerton and the Baltimore 'Assassination' Plot Against Lincoln," in the March, 1950, issue of the *Maryland Historical Magazine*.

The March, 1950, issue of *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* contains the following articles: "The Genesis of the Oregon Question," by Frederick Merk; "The Election Tactics of the Nonpartisan League," by Samuel P. Huntington; "The Newspaper Reporter and the Kansas Imbroglio," by Bernard A. Weisberger; "France and Louisiana in the Early Eighteenth Century," by Marcel Giraud; and "The Rich, the Well-Born, and Alexander Hamilton," by Thomas P. Govan.

The April, 1950, issue of the *Missouri Historical Review* contains the first of a series of Civil War letters written by Colonel Bazel F. Lazear to his wife during the years 1861-1865. Colonel Lazear was a member of the Home Guards in Missouri, supporters of the Union cause.

"Lines West! — The Story of George W. Holdrege," by Thomas M. Davis, in the March, 1950, issue of *Nebraska History*, is the first of a series of three articles on the builder of the Burlington and Missouri Railroad in Nebraska, later to become part of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy system. Holdrege's connection with the road began in 1869 as chief clerk to the paymaster at a salary of a dollar per day; he retired as General Manager in 1921.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of William Jennings Bryan is being commemorated in *Nebraska History* by a series of articles on his life. The first of these articles, "The Youth of William Jennings Bryan — Beginnings of a Christian Statesman," by Paolo E. Coletta, appears in the March, 1950, issue.

Richard B. Morris, professor of history at Columbia University, spoke in Cooperstown, New York, on September 9, 1949, on "Freedom of Expression: Its Past and Its Future." His address is published in the April, 1950, issue of *New York History*.

A report on the third conference on American history, held under the auspices of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, is published in the April, 1950, issue of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. The topic for this conference, held in February, 1950, was a comparison of the European and American training in graduate study in history. No formal papers were presented; the conference devoted its time to general discussion, which was transcribed for publication.

Missouri's justly famous Senator, Thomas Hart Benton, spent his "formative years in Tennessee." William N. Chambers has contributed an article covering these years to the December, 1949, issue of the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, entitled "Thomas Hart Benton in Tennessee, 1801-1812."

Iowa

Articles on Iowa history in the April, 1950, issue of *Annals of Iowa* are: "Centennial of Federal Court in Iowa," edited by Emory H. English; "Kasson Letters — Austria and Germany," edited by Eunice Wead; "Audubon County's 'Troublesome Gang,'" by Judge H. J. Mantz; and "The Bench, Bar and Courts in Benton County," by J. F. Traer.

Two articles on "The Malfeasance of William Worth Belknap," by Robert C. Prickett, appear in the January and April, 1950, issues of *North Dakota History*. W. W. Belknap of Iowa was Secretary of War in the cabinet of U. S. Grant.

Dike, Grundy County, celebrated its Golden Jubilee on June 1 and 2, 1950. The town came into existence when the North Western Railroad built a branch line across the northeastern part of Grundy County, and was

named for Chester Thomas Dike, chief engineer of the promotional company hired to lay out new towns along the line. A short history of Dike appeared in the May 28, 1950, issue of the *Waterloo Courier*.

Clutier in Tama County was founded in 1900. As part of the Golden Jubilee this year, the editor of the *Traer Star Clipper* is re-publishing stories of the founding of Clutier as they appeared in his paper in 1900. The first reprint was published in the May 19, 1950, issue.

An unusual Civil War relic, a flag carried by the Norwegian-American regiment through twenty-three battles and on Sherman's "march to the sea" is on display at the Norwegian-American Museum at Decorah. The story of the flag and its preservation appeared in the April 6, 1950, issue of the *Decorah Public Opinion*. An account of the Museum and its director, Mrs. Inga B. Norstog, appeared in the March 9, 1950, issue of the same paper.

The Hanna Caldwell chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has in its possession the first flag to be flown from the first bridge over the Mississippi at Davenport, in 1856. When the bridge was burned, after being rammed by the steamboat *Effie Afton*, someone rescued the flag. The story of the flag, with a picture, appeared in the April 23, 1950, issue of the *Davenport Democrat*.