

HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

Book Notes

Americans from Norway. By Leola Nelson Bergmann. (New York, J. B. Lippincott Co., 1950. \$3.50.) The *Peoples of America Series*, studies of the various nationalities which go to make up the American character, was begun several years ago. Already books on the Dutch, the Swedes, the English, and many others have been published. The Norwegians, ably represented by Leola Nelson Bergmann, are among the most important nationalities in the amalgam which is American civilization; only the Irish have sent a larger proportion of their people to the United States. First Europeans to visit the American continent — when Lief Erikson and his vikings discovered a new land in the eleventh century — the role of the Norwegians, from farming to the professions, has been wide, varied, and productive of much good to American civilization. Mrs. Bergmann, herself of Norwegian descent, has written a book of sound scholarship in a lucid literary style. Her work will prove of interest and value to all who are seeking a wider understanding of our national culture. Iowans in particular will find much of their local history in *Americans from Norway*. Readers of the JOURNAL will remember Mrs. Bergmann's article, "The Negro in Iowa," in the January, 1948, issue of this quarterly.

Horace Greeley: Voice of the People. By William Harlan Hale. (New York, Harper & Bros., 1950.) Horace Greeley was one of the most colorful and most influential men of the nineteenth century in America. His life story touches almost every phase of America's history from the 1830's to the 1870's. He was not only the most popular and best known newspaper editor in the United States — his *New York Tribune* was a political Bible in the Middle West for many years — but his hand was felt in politics, in war and peace, in the several humanitarian movements of the mid-century, and, finally, in the Liberal Republican revolt of 1872. Discontented Republicans and leaderless Democrats, in that last year of Greeley's life, chose him as the standard-bearer of that short-lived effort at national reform. Mr. Hale has written a biography of Greeley which will be read and enjoyed by all.

Agricultural Discontent in the Middle West, 1900-1939. By Theodore Saloutos and John D. Hicks. (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1951. \$6.75.) In a brilliant study of some 550 pages, Professors Saloutos and Hicks have made a real contribution to the understanding of the farm problems of the first four decades of the twentieth century. Introductory chapters, by Dr. Hicks, discuss the region of the "Middle West" and the background of twentieth century Insurgency. Dr. Saloutos' chapters on the various farm organizations — the Cooperative Movement, the American Society of Equity, the Nonpartisan League, and the Farmers' Union and Farm Bureau — show the growth and development of the farmers' movements. Further chapters cover the depression years, the famous Farm Strike of the 1930's, and the New Deal program for agriculture. The authors' conclusions are that leadership in the farm protest movement was centered largely in the Middle West for a number of reasons: the background of nineteenth century agrarian revolt, represented by the Grange, Greenbackism, the Farmers' Alliance, and Populism, was strongest there; antimonopoly sentiment was likewise strongest there because it was primarily an agricultural area, dependent on long hauls and high freight rates both for the products it sold and the goods it bought; the leaders of the protest movement were largely Middle Westerners — La Follette of Wisconsin, Cummins of Iowa, Norris of Nebraska, Shipstead of Minnesota, and many others. These are only a few of the many reasons given for Middle Western discontent, pointed out in a closely-written chapter, "Epilogue." Farmers of the nineteenth century had put their faith in trust-busting to solve their problems; farmers of the twentieth turned to building "restrictive devices patterned to a great degree after those of industry." This is an important book and a real contribution to agricultural history as well as to an understanding of the place of the farm movement in recent American history.

Tyrant from Illinois: Uncle Joe Cannon's Experiment with Personal Power. By Blair Bolles. (New York, W. W. Norton & Co., 1951. \$4.50.) Joseph Gurney Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1906 to 1910, was so conservative, said one of his enemies, that in a caucus on Creation, he would have voted for chaos. One of the most colorful, most loved, and most hated Speakers in the history of American government, Cannon has long deserved a good biography. Mr. Bolles has based his book

on a study of the papers of Cannon and other leading politicians of his day, and has written both a readable book and a contribution to the history of the turbulent years of the insurgent-standpatter feud of the first decade of the twentieth century.

Mileposts on the Prairie. The Story of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway. By Frank P. Donovan, Jr. (New York, Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corp., 1950. \$4.50.) The M&StL, which crosses Iowa from north to south, entering the state at Northwood, and running through Mason City, Marshalltown, Grinnell, and Oskaloosa, has a long and varied history. The present road is a combination of the M&StL begun in Minnesota and the Iowa Central begun in Iowa, both in the early 1870's. Mr. Donovan has done an excellent job of telling the story of the railroad and of the men who made it possible.

The Illinois Military Tract: A Study of Land Occupation, Utilization and Tenure. By Theodore L. Carlson. (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1951.) This is Number 2 of Volume XXXII of the Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences. It is a complete economic study of a large area in west-central Illinois, of about two million acres, which was set aside by Congress in 1812 to provide military land bounties to soldiers of the War of 1812. The volume carries the history of this region down to 1900.

A Friendly Mission: John Candler's Letters from America, 1853-1854. (Indianapolis, Indiana Historical Society Publication, Vol. 16, No. 1, 1951. \$1.00.) John Candler, an English Quaker, and four companions visited America in the 1850's on an anti-slavery mission. During his travels Candler wrote long letters to his wife, describing their varied experiences through the Middle West and the South. These letters have now been published by the Indiana Historical Society and will prove a valuable source of information on America in the pre-Civil War years.

Articles

The Winter, 1951, issue of *American Heritage* contains a variety of articles. H. Paul Caemmerer is the author of an article on the city of Washington, now 150 years old. "San Gabriel" is an article on "the first Spanish Capital in the American Southwest," contributed by John L. Sinclair. Wisconsin's State Historical Society is discussed and illustrated by

Perry C. Hill. Of timely interest is a story of the White House — "The House That Nearly Fell" — by Randle Bond Truett. Paintings illustrative of American life, in the Corcoran Gallery at Washington, are described and illustrated in "American Processional, 1492-1900," by Blanche Magurn Leeper, while another article on American art, illustrated with pictures from Washington's National Gallery, is "Index of American Design," by Holger Cahill. A third article of interest to artists is "American Primitives, Paintings and People," by Alice Winchester. "Fourscore and seven years ago," Lincoln spoke at the dedication of a cemetery at Gettysburg; Joseph Kingston reviews that event in "Last Act: Gettysburg 1863." "Social Life in Colonial Williamsburg" is described by Arthur Pierce Middleton, director of that now famous restoration of a complete colonial town. Helen Hartness Flanders, who has for the past twenty years been gathering on tape and record the folk songs of America, tells of her experiences in "Songs Alive, from Revolutionary Times." Clifford Wilson's article on "Battles on Hudson's Bay" is illustrated with pictures from the records of the Hudson's Bay Company. A final article on "Photography's Hall of Fame" by Cedric Larson is an account of Eastman House at Rochester, which just one year ago began the collection and preservation of a record of photography.

Samuel Eliot Morison's presidential address to the American Historical Association, "Faith of a Historian," appears in the January, 1951, *American Historical Review*. Dr. Morison disclaims any search for a "law of history"; rather, he has "cultivated the vast garden of human experience which is history," without troubling himself "over-much about laws, essential first causes, or how it is all coming out." His credo, he concludes, is: "I seek to learn." In the same issue of the *Review*, Jeannette P. Nichols contributes an article on "Roosevelt's Monetary Diplomacy in 1933."

An article on military history is "The Atlanta Campaign, 1864," by George C. Osborn, in the December, 1950, issue of *The Georgia Historical Quarterly*.

Two articles on the 1864 national presidential campaign by William Frank Zornow have been published. In the Winter, 1950, *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, the subject is "McClellan and Seymour in the Chicago Convention of 1864"; in the January, 1951, *Bulletin of the*

Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, the article deals with "Lincoln, Chase, and the Ohio Radicals in 1864."

Missouri, during the Civil War, was a battleground for the Secessionists and Unionists of the state. Arthur Roy Kirkpatrick discusses "Missouri's Secessionist Government, 1861-1865," in the January, 1951, *Missouri Historical Review*.

Another article on the "Great Commoner" appears in the December, 1950, *Nebraska History*: "William Jennings Bryan in Oklahoma," by Norbert R. Mahnken.

"Military Trails in North Dakota: Fort Abercrombie to Fort Ransom, With Notes on the History of Fort Ransom," by Dana Wright appeared in the October, 1950, *North Dakota History*. The article is illustrated by maps of the trail in Ransom and Richland counties.

The January, 1951, issue of *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* contains the following articles of general interest: "Financing the Fremont Campaign," by James A. Rawley; "The Urban Missionary Movement, 1814-1837," by Charles I. Foster; and "Medicine in Philadelphia and Boston, 1805-1830," by Leonard K. Eaton.

An article of general interest in the September-December, 1950, *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine* is "The Liberal Republican Revolt of 1872 and the Oil Regions," by Harold M. Helfman.

The January, 1951, issue of *The William and Mary Quarterly* is devoted to commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of James Madison. Articles contributed are by Irving Brant, Theodore Bolton, Douglass Adair, Margaret Bailey Tinkcom, and H. Trevor Colbourn.

"The Menominee River" by W. E. Schubert is the introductory article in the Winter, 1950, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. "Trade Silver and Indian Silversmiths," by David A. Baerreis, is illustrated with pictures of the silver ornaments and objects in the Museum of the Wisconsin Historical Society. "Grandma's House" is a reminiscent article by Anna Kellman Whitchurch. Vernon Carstensen, in "Adventure in Cooperation," discusses the complementary growth of the libraries of the Wisconsin State Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin.

A history of the country store would hardly be considered important by some readers of history, yet it has a very important place in American social history. Thomas D. Clark, professor of history at the University of Kentucky, and author of a delightful book on the country store entitled *Pills, Petticoats and Plows*, has contributed an article, "The Country Store in American Social History," to the April, 1951, *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Clark concludes his article: "Writers of social history would likewise do well to remember that the history of the country store is not alone a story of a sentimental institution about which they are writing, but rather the much bigger one of the distribution of goods and molding of the American taste before a large portion of this country's expanding population was finally coagulated into a predominantly urban pattern." The author suggests that communities and historical societies would do well to preserve the records of these stores before they are "cast into the fire or hauled away to the dump heap."

A contribution to medical history is an article by Howard D. Kramer of Western Reserve University, "An Ohio Doctor in the Early Navy," in the April, 1951, *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Kramer wrote the article from the original journals of Lewis A. Wolfley, an Ohio doctor who served in the United States Navy from 1832 to 1844.

John Higham of the University of California at Los Angeles has contributed an article to the April, 1951, *American Historical Review* on "The Rise of American Intellectual History" which merits a careful study. The article discusses the development of the study of ideas in history. "In intellectual history," writes Dr. Higham, "the search for connections between bodies of thought and related areas of intellectual or social experience was central and systematic."

The March, 1951, *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* contains the following articles: "Richard T. Ely, Forerunner of Progressivism, 1880-1901," by Sidney Fine; "The Mississippi Valley and American Foreign Policy, 1890-1941: An Assessment and an Appeal," by Richard W. Leopold; "A New Evaluation of Henry Hamilton and George Rogers Clark," by John D. Barnhart; "The Agricultural Issue in the Presidential Campaign of 1928," by Gilbert Fite; and "Royal Navy Impressment During the American Revolution," by Roland G. Usher, Jr.

The *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, March, 1951, contains an article by Hildegard Binder Johnson on "The Location of German Immigrants in the Middle West." Dr. Johnson's researches in Iowa show that in the mid-nineteenth century in Iowa the Germans tended to settle in the so-called "River" counties along the Mississippi, and especially in the larger towns of those river counties.

In 1864 the two Kansas senators, James H. Lane and Samuel C. Pomeroy, supported different candidates for the presidential nomination: Lane was a Lincoln man, while Pomeroy preferred Salmon P. Chase. The story of the role of these Kansans in the pre-convention campaign is told by William Frank Zornow in "The Kansas Senators and the Re-election of Lincoln" in the May, 1951, *Kansas Historical Quarterly*.

That the Midwest, once the home of Populism and Progressivism, is now a center of conservatism and opposition to progressive political doctrines, is the theme of Walter Johnson in "Politics in the Midwest," in the March, 1951, *Nebraska History*. His article is an able and thought-provoking survey of politics in the Middle Western states from the Populist days of the 1890's to the present. The same issue of this quarterly contains a document of interest to railroad historians: "The Plattsmouth Letters of Cyrus Woodman, 1869-1870," edited by C. L. Marquette.

The Spring, 1951, issue of *American Heritage* is devoted largely to articles on Hawaii. Additional articles are on the famous battle of San Jacinto, which gave Texas its independence; on historical fakes and forgeries; on the Vermont marble which was used in building the United Nations building in New York; on clipper ship sailing cards, and on Admiral George G. Dewey.

The Spring, 1951, issue of the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* contains much good reading for those interested in local history. Richard H. Shryock of Johns Hopkins University has written on "Changing Perspectives in Local History," a challenging article which makes a strong plea for more attention to history at the local level. The County Commission was Wisconsin's first local government; thus, the article, "The Development of the Office of County Clerk in Wisconsin," by Lorentz H. Adolfson will prove valuable to those who wish to trace the growth of local government. Two addresses, made at the dedication of the new American History Research Center at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, are published in this

issue: one by George Banta, Jr., president of the Society; the other by Walter J. Kohler, Jr., governor of Wisconsin. Benton H. Wilcox is gathering information on the location of Wisconsin material at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and other libraries, in preparation for Wisconsin's large microfilm project. His "Wisconsin Report" gives details on some of the material he has uncovered in his searches, and also the magnitude of the project.

Iowa

A large part of the January, 1951, issue of the *Annals of Iowa* is devoted to an article by Frank C. Arena on "Southern Sympathizers in Iowa During Civil War Days." Many Iowans will be surprised at the widespread "Copperheadism" in a strong Union state. Emory H. English, Editor Associate of the *Annals*, writes of General Eastin Morris, editor of the *Morris Reports* which contain the first decisions handed down by the Territorial Supreme Court of Iowa. Morris' career is discussed in "Gen. Eastin Morris Served Iowa."

A history of the work of the Vinton School for the Blind appeared in the December 31, 1950, *Waterloo Courier*. Originally located in Iowa City, the school was moved to Vinton in 1862.

One of the first major train robberies in the United States occurred in southwestern Iowa in July, 1873, when the famous James brothers derailed a Rock Island train and escaped with \$3,000. They were too early, however — twenty-four hours later another train passed over the same route, carrying the \$75,000 in gold which Jesse James and his gang wanted. A present-day Rock Island engineer, O. F. Jensen of Council Bluffs, passes the site of this famous train robbery daily; he is instituting plans for the erection of an historical marker on the spot. The story of Mr. Jensen's plans, and of the 1873 robbery, is told in the December 31, 1950, issue of the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*.

A story of Iowa's "underground railway," together with a map of the route for escaping slaves from Indianola to Des Moines, is told by George Shane in the December 31, 1950, issue of the *Des Moines Register*. P. K. McKee of Indianola and Dr. M. A. DaShiell of Hartford were famous "conductors" on the "railway." The story is illustrated by pictures of the two men and of various houses or "stations" on the road.

The Blue Earth River in Kossuth County is a small river with a long history, according to a story by Mrs. Walter G. Smith in the January 4, 1951, *Algona Upper Des Moines*. Originating in the Union Slough, the river flows north into Minnesota. Some 300 years ago French explorers visited the river in Minnesota, hoping to find copper in the "blue earth" from which the river took its name. Tons of the blue mud were taken back to France where they proved to be "just that — blue mud." Indians and explorers such as Stephen Kearny and Daniel Boone's son, Nathan, and John C. Fremont knew the river. "The little river was also a road to freedom for at least one Negro who fled from Southern masters" in 1855, according to Mrs. Smith's story.

The unincorporated town of Miller in Hancock County was founded in 1875, but not platted until 20 years later. In 1951 Miller obtained its first street lights. This event is the occasion for a brief history of the town, which was published in the January 17, 1951, issue of the *Garner Leader*.

In 1847 Conrad Hartwick and his family emigrated from Germany and bought an 80-acre farm near McGregor for \$500. Today, 104 years later, Hartwick's descendants are still living on the same farm. The history of the farm and the family appears in the January 21, 1951, issue of the *Dubuque Telegraph-Herald*, together with a picture of the 22-room farmhouse which replaced the log cabin in which the Hartwicks first lived.

The Buena Vista College was founded at Storm Lake in 1892 by the Presbyterian Church. Over the years since, the college has struggled constantly with financial difficulties; but in 1941 it was at last out of debt. Bill Richards gives a brief history of the college in the February 15, 1951, issue of the *Storm Lake Pilot Tribune*.

C. M. Chapman of Dunlap is the owner of a valuable "day-book" kept by his grandfather, James Herrington, in 1835 when he was a storekeeper in Geneva, Illinois. Entries in the book show how widespread were the interests of storekeeping in the early nineteenth century: in addition to selling everything from oxen to needles, the store operated as a labor exchange and a bank. The story of Mr. Chapman's historical document is told in the March 2, 1951, issue of the *Council Bluffs Nonpareil*.

The last streetcar in Des Moines ceased operation on March 5, 1951. Operation of electric streetcars began in Des Moines in 1888. A brief his-

tory of Des Moines's electric streetcars, now all replaced by motor buses, is told in the March 4, 1951, issue of the *Des Moines Register*.

A history of the German Mutual Insurance Company of Eldora, a 75-year-old organization, is told by Dolly Brause in the April 1, 1951, issue of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*. Organized in June, 1877, to serve the Germans of the community, the company has survived and flourished until its insurance in force now totals \$23,600,000.

According to a story by Ed Grady in the April 12, 1951, issue of the *Maquoketa Community Press*, "the first telephone exchange in the state of Iowa was set up right here in Maquoketa 71 years ago March 10 by the Jackson County Bell Telephone company." Two years before that day in 1880, however, a Des Moines businessman had bought two of the "contraptions" and installed them, one in his home and one in his office downtown. People thought them amusing "playthings."

David T. Jones, of Oxford, Ohio, a life member of the State Historical Society of Iowa, has compiled a booklet on *Schools and Colleges of the United Brethren in Christ*. An introduction briefly discusses United Brethren history; schools and colleges are then listed alphabetically with brief historical data. Copies of the booklet may be secured for \$1.25 from the DuBois Book Store, 41 East High Street, Oxford, Ohio.

The April, 1951, issue of the *Annals of Iowa* contains a useful article compiled by Maude Lauderdale, entitled "How Justice Came to Webster County." The article gives a brief history of the legal development of the county from the earliest Claim Clubs to the present day, and includes biographies of the leading members of the bar in the early days. A. M. Henderson contributes a reminiscent article, "My Years in Story County," to the same issue of the *Annals*. "On the Road to Bethlehem," by O. J. Pruitt, is the story of the Missouri River traders of the early nineteenth century.

Polo and pioneering are not often found together. Yet in the 1870's Plymouth County could boast of a settlement of English "lords and ladies" who farmed in formal attire and who developed one of the first polo teams in the United States. Attracted to the "wild west" of Iowa by advertisements in the newspapers, the Close brothers of England — William, Fred, and James — bought 16,080 acres of Plymouth County land for \$2.40 an

acre. Soon thousands of young and wealthy Englishmen had migrated to Iowa, "dressed in the height of Paris fashion, with mountains of luggage." The settlement did not last long — the rigors of frontier life were too much for the titled Englishmen. After several years the Close brothers sold out their holdings and returned, with the other colonists, to England. Laretta Kass Trafler has written a lively account of this English colony for the *Sioux City Journal* of May 27, 1951.