

HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

Book Notes

Lincoln and His Generals. By T. Harry Williams. (New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1952. \$4.00.) Hardly a phase of the life of Abraham Lincoln has been neglected by the historian. Here, Dr. Williams has written a study of Lincoln in his constitutional role of commander in chief. Not the least of the great president's problems was the handling of the clashing personalities of his generals. Lincoln was, writes Williams, "a great war president, probably the greatest in our history, and a great natural strategist, a better one than any of his generals. He was in actuality as well as in title the commander in chief who, by his larger strategy, did more than Grant or any general to win the war for the Union."

The Decline of Laissez Faire, 1897-1917. By Harold U. Faulkner. (New York, Rinehart & Co., 1951. \$6.00.) *The Transportation Revolution: Industry, 1815-1860.* By George Rogers Taylor. (New York, Rinehart & Co., 1951. \$4.50.) These two books are volumes 7 and 4, respectively, of the projected nine-volume *Economic History of the United States*, of which three other volumes have already been published. Each period of America's economic growth is handled by an expert in that particular field, and the whole project is a valuable contribution to modern historical writing.

The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union. By Bell I. Wiley. (Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1952. \$6.00.) This is a companion volume to the author's *Life of Johnny Reb* published in 1943. The two volumes, based on wide reading in the letters and diaries of the soldier, North and South, present a neglected side of the Civil War — the life of the "common soldier."

A Chronicle of Old Muskego. The Diary of Soren Bache, 1839-1847. Translated and edited by Clarence A. Clausen and Andreas Elviken. (Northfield, Minn.: Norwegian-American Historical Assn., 1951. \$3.50.) The Norwegian-American Historical Association has published much worthwhile material on the Norwegians in America, and this book is an-

other valuable addition to this series. Muskego, Wisconsin, often called the "mother colony" of Norwegian immigrant settlement, owed much to the work of Bache. This published diary is, therefore, of interest as recounting the growth of a segment of the American frontier.

Showboats: The History of an American Institution. By Philip Graham. (Austin, University of Texas Press, 1951. \$3.75.) The river showboats are a part of American culture. Dr. Graham, professor of American literature at the University of Texas, became interested in showboats in 1930 and has since spent long hours searching for material. His book, therefore, is a sound historical contribution, as well as a delightfully readable account of the American showboat.

Articles

The October, 1951, issue of *Agricultural History* contains the following articles on American agriculture: "The Swamp Land Act and Wet Land Utilization in Illinois, 1850-1890," by Margaret Beattie Bogue; and "Steam Power on the American Farm, 1830-1880," by Reynold M. Wik.

Greenbackism in the South is discussed in "William Manning Lowe and the Greenback Party in Alabama" by Frances Roberts in the April, 1952, *Alabama Review*.

Although the Populist presidential candidate in 1892, James B. Weaver of Iowa, is well known, his running mate, James Gaven Field, has been neglected by historians. John H. Moore has written an article, "James Gaven Field, Populist Candidate for the Vice-Presidency," in the 1950-1951 volume of the *Papers of the Albemarle County Historical Society*.

Boyd C. Shafer's article, "Men Are More Alike," in the April, 1952, *American Historical Review*, discusses the likenesses of men instead of their differences. He concludes that "Scholars who stress [man's differences] to the exclusion of the known similarities do so at the expense of truth and to their own and mankind's great peril." Other articles in the same issue are: "The Historian and Southern Negro Slavery," by Kenneth M. Stampp, and "The Federalist — A Split Personality," by Alpheus Thomas Mason.

The Winter, 1951, *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* contains the following articles: "The America First Committee," by Wayne S.

Cole; "The Cherokee Cross Egypt," by Scerial Thompson; "Health Measures in Early Springfield," by Helen Van Cleave Blankmeyer; "Captain Benjamin Godfrey, The Prairie Prophet," by D. W. Denison; and "Lewis B. Parsons: Mover of Armies and Railroad Builder," by Harry E. Pratt. An account of recent political history is "How Big Bill Thompson Won Control of Chicago" by George Schottenhamel in the Spring, 1952, issue of the *Journal*.

The December, 1951, *Indiana Magazine of History* contains the following articles of general interest: "Eugene V. Debs: Conservative Labor Editor," by David A. Shannon; and "Roots of the Principle of Separation of Powers in the Indiana Constitution," by Darwin N. Kelley.

Of unusual interest is an article by James C. Malin in the November, 1951, *Kansas Historical Quarterly*: "The Motives of Stephen A. Douglas in the Organization of Nebraska Territory: A Letter Dated December 17, 1853." The May, 1952, *Quarterly* contains the following articles: "The Great Flood of 1844 along the Kansas and Marais Des Cynges Rivers," by S. D. Flora; "Farmer Debtors in Pioneer Kinsley," by Allan G. Bogue; and "Vincent B. Osborne's Civil War Experiences," edited by Joyce Farlow and Louise Barry.

The March, 1952, *Michigan History* contains a series of letters edited by Sidney Fine, with copious and valuable notes: "The Ely-Labadie Letters" dating from 1885 to 1906. "Jo" Labadie, a supporter of socialism, Greenbackism, the single tax, and philosophical anarchy, carried on a long correspondence with Richard T. Ely, prominent professor of economics at Johns Hopkins and the University of Wisconsin. Ely, in contrast to Labadie, was an advocate of the "cause of social reform as an antidote to the perils of laissez faire on the right and socialism on the left."

The American Navy played an important part on the rivers of the Middle West during the Civil War. Charles B. Hirsch has contributed an article on "Gunboat Personnel on the Western Waters" to the April, 1952, *Mid-America*.

The quarterly of the Minnesota Historical Society, *Minnesota History*, appeared in a new format with the Spring, 1952, issue. With larger pages, double columns, and many pictures, this new journal is both attractive and

readable. Articles in the issue include "Steamboating on Mississippi Headwaters," by Irving Harlow Hart; "People and Places in Old St. Paul," the reminiscences of Alice Monfort Dunn; "North Country Post Office," by Eva L. Alvey Richards; and "Settler's Periodical: Eugene Smalley and the Northwest Magazine," by Edgar C. Duin.

Frank L. Klement's article, "Middle Western Copperheadism and the Genesis of the Granger Movement," in the March, 1952, *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* is of particular interest as a study of the background of the agrarian protest known as "Grangerism." Other articles in the issue are: "James K. Polk: A Study in Federal Patronage," by Norman A. Graebner; "Some Phases of the Compulsory Military Training Movement, 1914-1920," by Chase C. Mooney and Martha E. Layman; and "General William S. Rosecrans and the Mexican Transcontinental Railroad Project," by David M. Pletcher. The June, 1952, *Review* contains the following articles: "The Democratic Theme in American Historical Literature," by Merle Curti; "Southern Ohio and the Union in 1863," by Eugene H. Roseboom; "Rutherford B. Hayes, Educator," by Henry L. Swint; "The Northern Great Plains: A Study in Canadian-American Regionalism," by Paul F. Sharp; "Origins of Immigration Restriction, 1882-1897: A Social Analysis," by John Higham; and "Imprisonment for Debt in America: Fact and Fiction," by Edwin T. Randall.

"The Challenge of the Times to the Historian" (January, 1952, issue, *The Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly*), is an essay by Carl Wittke of Western Reserve University, calling on historians to come out of their ivory towers, to teach better, to write better, to answer the need for "an historical approach to present-day problems," and thus to help allay modern fears. Carl Wittke also contributed a lively article on "Baseball in its Adolescence," to the April, 1952, *Quarterly*.

The powerful National Association of Manufacturers was founded at Cincinnati in 1895. A. K. Steigerwalt, Jr., has written on account of the founding of the NAM for the April, 1952, *Bulletin of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*. Thomas D. Clark's article, "Early Accounts of Ohio Valley Settlement," in the same issue, contains much information on the printed sources of frontier Ohio and Kentucky life, together with stimulating comments by the author.

Historians, and all who read and study history, will find interest in John J. Van Nostrand's "The Historian as Teacher" in the May, 1952, *Pacific Historical Review*. Dr. Van Nostrand concludes his essay: "To this craftsman, history offers simply a point of view, a method for the solution of problems. The method demands a persistent and patient search for truth, a suspension of judgment pending the acquisition of all available truth, and a tolerance of other judgments no less fallible than my own. If one must relate the past to the present, and I know of no other reason for recollecting and reviving it, this is the time. In time of fear which blinds, seek the truth which clears the eye. In time of suspicion which makes little distinction between friend and foe, train the judgment which marks the battle lines, locates the enemy, and conserves strength until a telling blow can be struck. In time of prejudice, be tolerant."

Roy F. Nichols, in "English Origins of American Politics" in the January, 1952, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, points out the beginnings of the political ideas of America in the growing religious questioning which preceded the Reformation in sixteenth century England. "Anna Dickinson, Mark Twain, and Bret Harte," by James Harvey Young, appears in the same issue.

Of interest to railroad and agricultural historians will be an article in the December, 1951, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*: "Railroad Promotion of Agriculture in Tennessee," by Jesse C. Burt, Jr., in which the author discusses the work of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway from 1890 to 1918 in supporting progressive agriculture.

The *Wisconsin Magazine of History* (Winter, 1951) contains articles by Edwin E. Witte on "Labor in Wisconsin History"; by William H. Russell, on "Timothy O. Howe, Stalwart Republican"; and by Frank Klement, on "'Brick' Pomeroy: Copperhead and Curmudgeon." The Autumn, 1951, issue has the following articles of general interest: "J. I. Case: Some Experiences of an Early Wisconsin Industrialist," by Reynold M. Wik; "Early Rivalry Among Wisconsin Cities for Railroads," by Herbert W. Rice; and "La Follette and the Election of 1900: A Half-Century Reappraisal," by Robert S. Maxwell. The Spring, 1952, *Wisconsin Magazine of History* has several articles of general interest: "Lyman Copeland Draper, 1815-1891," by William B. Hesseltine; "Joseph H. Osborn, Grange Leader," by

Robert McCluggage; "Frederick Jackson Turner and the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*, 1885," by Fulmer Mood; and "Elisha W. Keyes and the Radical Republicans," by Richard W. Hantke.

Iowa

Articles in the January, 1952, *Annals of Iowa* are: "When Railroads were Sought," by Ora Williams; an account written in 1914 by Col. Joseph H. Sweney entitled "Nursed a Wounded Brother," an account of service during the Civil War; "Variable Iowa Weather," by N. Tjernagle; and "Des Moines Street Transit," by W. F. McGlothlen. In the April, 1952, *Annals* are: "John A. Kasson — Early Contrasting Environments," by Edward Younger; "The Last Legislative Election of an Iowa U. S. Senator," by Leslie E. Francis; "The Mound Builders," by Thomas P. Christensen; and "Pioneer Foods and Water Supply," by N. Tjernagle.

An article of interest to Iowans appeared in the October, 1951, *Agricultural History*: "Smith Wildman Brookhart of Iowa: Insurgent Agrarian Politician," by Reinhard H. Luthin.

The Winter, 1952, *Iowa Law Review* is devoted to "A Symposium on Current Civil Liberties Problems," with articles by Osmond K. Fraenkel, John Edgar Hoover, Whitney R. Harris, and Walter L. Daykin.

The March, 1952, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* has an article by Leslie Hewes and Phillip E. Frandson: "Occupying the Wet Prairie: The Role of Artificial Drainage in Story County, Iowa."

Irving H. Hart of the faculty of Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls has prepared a history of the school entitled *The First 75 Years*.

A brief history of Coe College, based on a story in the Coe College *Courier*, appeared in the December 23, 1951, Cedar Rapids *Gazette*. The history was compiled by Grace Hartzell Douma and Catherine Covert Stepanek.

Two articles on The Dolly, a branch-line Burlington Route passenger train which has ceased operation after eighty years, appeared in the Burlington *Hawkeye-Gazette* for February 12 and 13, 1952. R. T. Glenn is the author of these stories, which trace the development of this branch line —

which operated between Burlington and Galesburg via Oquawka, Aledo, and Galva — from its first organization in 1853, through its 15-year struggle to build the road, and its first operation in 1868, up to its recent abandonment. The road was known variously as the Western Airline Railroad and the American Central Railway, until it became part of the CB&Q.

The first football game west of the Mississippi was a contest in "Rugby football" between the State University of Iowa and Grinnell College in 1889. Grinnell won, 24-0. The story of one of the participants in this game, S. J. Pooley, a resident of Grinnell, appeared in the March 27, 1952, *Grinnell Herald*.

A series of articles on the Clarinda Presbyterian Church, written by Mrs. W. R. Bening, has appeared recently in the *Clarinda Herald-Journal*. The concluding article was published in the April 10, 1952, issue.

Mrs. W. E. Madson has compiled a series of articles on the history of Hawarden which have been published in the March and April issues of the *Hawarden Independent*.

The first radio broadcasting station in central Iowa was a "twenty-watt outfit" built by W. H. Fowler, at Pella. This was in 1921. The following year he helped to establish the first station in Des Moines, a "fifty-watt outfit" on top of the Register and Tribune building. The story of these early days of radio broadcasting was written by Herb Owens for the *Des Moines Tribune* and was reprinted in the *Knoxville Express* for May 15, 1952.

Robert Schmidt contributed a story on Sioux City bicycling illustrated with old and new pictures of "bikes" to the June 1, 1952, issue of the *Sioux City Journal*.

The *Augusta* was "one of the busiest ferry boats connecting Illinois and Iowa during the last half of the nineteenth century," according to a story in the February 28, 1952, *Clinton Herald*. The article is accompanied by a picture of the *Augusta* and of her pilot and captain, Thomas Burns. Another ferry boat story, that of the *John Taylor* which ran between Burlington and Henderson County, Illinois, appeared in the February 25, 1952, *Burlington Hawkeye-Gazette*.

The Ackworth Friends Church observed its centennial on June 1, 1952. A brief history of the church, together with a picture, appeared in the May 22, 1952, *Indianola Record Herald*.

How Iowans met a Missouri River flood in 1881 is told in the June 5, 1952, *Onawa Democrat*. The story is a reprint of the report of the flood which was originally printed in the *Monona County Gazette* for April 28, 1881.

The June 12, 1952, *Waterloo Courier* published a short history of St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church of Denver, Iowa, which celebrated its 90th birthday June 15, 1952.

The Cedar Rapids *Gazette* has instituted a series of articles on the newspapers of that area. The first article, "Weekly Newspapers Are an American Institution," by Jean Strong, appeared in the June 15, 1952, issue. Loyal Meek contributed the story of the *Tama News-Herald* to the June 22 issue of the *Gazette*.