

## HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS

### *Book Notes*

*Broadax and Bayonet: The Role of the United States Army in the Development of the Northwest, 1815-1860.* By Francis Paul Prucha. (Madison, The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1953. \$4.00.) This book should prove a valuable addition to the Middle Western frontier history. It deals with the non-military — the civilizing — effect of the army units which stood between the Indian and the advancing pioneers in the pre-Civil War era. Many early Iowa forts played a part in this movement — Fort Des Moines, Fort Dodge, Fort Atkinson, and others. The study is based on wide research in manuscript collections at Washington and in the various historical societies of the Midwest, in addition to study of published sources of many kinds.

*America First: The Battle Against Intervention, 1940-1941.* By Wayne S. Cole. (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1953. \$3.50.) This is an objective study of the controversial America First Committee, which flourished during the pre-World War II debate on foreign policy. Dr. Cole has had access to the records of the Committee, now in the Hoover Library in California, and he has presented the story of the inception and growth of the movement in great detail. His conclusion is that, although the Committee "was not even able to defeat any major Administration 'short-of-war' proposal actually put to the test in Congress," yet its activities "definitely affected the strategy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt."

*Wagon Roads West, A Study of Federal Road Surveys and Construction in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1846-1869.* By W. Turrentine Jackson. (Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1952. \$5.00.) The role of the government surveyor in locating and building "wagon roads west" has long been neglected for the more colorful accounts of the pioneers who used those roads. This work, based on voluminous research, will be welcomed as a valuable contribution to a neglected phase of Western history. Readers of the JOURNAL will remember Dr. Jackson's article in "The Army Engineers as Road Builders in Territorial Iowa," in the January, 1949, issue.

*Old Orchard Farm, The Story of an Iowa Boyhood.* By Hugh Orchard. (Ames, Iowa State College Press, 1952. \$2.50.) The author, a minister and Chautauqua lecturer, has here set down the memories of his boyhood on a Des Moines County farm in the 1880's. The result is a charming book, with unforgettable pen-portraits of "Mother," "Pap," and their neighbors. In contrast to the traditional picture of the wearing hardships of pioneer living, the story here is a happy one, spiced with delightful touches of humor, so that the book can be read not only for its information on a way of life, but for pleasure in the writing itself.

*Narrative Journal of Travels Through the Northwestern Regions of the United States . . . to the Sources of the Mississippi River in the Year 1820.* By Henry R. Schoolcraft. Edited by Mentor L. Williams. (East Lansing, Michigan State College Press, 1953. \$7.50.) This is a reprint of one of the most famous books on early American travel, originally published in 1821. The editor has supplemented Schoolcraft's footnotes, where necessary, and has added an introduction, giving the background of the 1820 journey. In addition, there are eight appendices containing supplemental material of value. Thus, a rare volume has been made available to scholars.

*The Great Railroad Conspiracy: The Social History of a Railroad War.* By Charles Hirschfeld. (East Lansing, Michigan State College Press, 1953. \$2.50.) This account of a pre-Grange farmer-railroad controversy in Michigan first appeared in *Michigan History* for June, 1952. As early as the mid-forties, farmer movements against the railroads were instigated by the killing of their cattle by the locomotives and the refusal of the railroad officials to pay damages. This feeling mounted to a concerted movement which brought about a general railroad law in 1854 — the forerunner of railroad regulation which came throughout the Midwest in the 1870's. The fact that the book is not indexed, nor divided into titled chapters, impairs the usefulness of the volume.

### Articles

The Winter, 1953, *American Heritage* deals largely with "The Coastal South," with articles on the varying life and history of that region. In addition, Kenneth P. Bochat contributes an article on "The Pine Tree Shilling"; Arthur M. Schlesinger writes on "Lincoln and Lee"; H. G. Nicholas discusses "Uncle Tom's Cabin, 1852-1952"; and Marshall B.

Davidson and Nina Fletcher Little write on "American Decorative Wall Painting, 1700-1850."

The presidential address of James G. Randall, read at the 1952 annual meeting of the American Historical Association, is entitled "Historianship" and is published in the January, 1953, issue of the *American Historical Review*.

The Winter, 1952, *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* is devoted to Illinois's great poet, Carl Sandburg, and contains articles in tribute by Harry E. Pratt, Adlai E. Stevenson, Quincy Wright, Harry Hansen, Robert E. Sherwood, J. G. Randall, Allan Nevins, Benjamin F. Thomas, and a host of other friends and admirers.

A reminiscent article by Charles A. Zimmerman in the Winter, 1952, issue of *Minnesota History* is "Hunters' Paradise, The Kandiyohe Country in the 1870's." An article of interest to those making a study of political and agrarian protest is "The Origin of Minnesota's Nonpartisan Legislature," by Charles R. Adrian, which appears in the same issue. "Playhouse for Pioneers, The Story of the Pence Opera House," by Donald Z. Woods, is a contribution to frontier cultural history.

Articles in the Autumn, 1952, *Wisconsin Magazine of History* include: "The Wisconsin Supreme Court," by the Hon. Timothy Brown; "Wisconsin Votes for President," by Perry C. Hill, a summary of Wisconsin's presidential votes from 1860 to 1948; "A Reappraisal of the Lumber Barons," by D. C. Everest; "Local History," by Granville Hicks; "Wisconsin's Canning Industry, Past and Present," by Fred Stare; and "Daniel W. Hoan and the Milwaukee Socialist Party During the First World War," by Robert C. Reinders. The Winter, 1952-53, issue of the *Magazine* contains the following articles: "The Wisconsin Legislature," by Earl Sachse; "Lincoln Scolds a General [Carl Schurz]," by Harlan Hoyt Horner; "Pioneer Buttles, Town Milwaukee Diarist," by Lillian Krueger, an article based on the voluminous diaries of Anson Waters Buttles; "Nineteenth Century Land Colonization in Northern Wisconsin," by Arlan Helgeson; "The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Southwestern Wisconsin," by Beulah Folkedahl; and "Weavers of Grasses: Indian Women of the Woodlands," by Phebe Jewell Nichols.

An article of interest to Iowans in the October, 1952, *Agricultural History* is "Henry A. Wallace's Editorials on Agricultural Discontent, 1921-1928," by Malcolm O. Sillars.

Articles on American history in the April, 1953, *American Historical Review* include "Patent-Office Models of the Good Society: Some Relationships Between Social Reform and Westward Expansion," by Arthur E. Bestor, Jr.; and "The Granger Cases: 1877 or 1876?" by Elwin W. Sigmund.

Daniel Boone is well recognized as the symbol of American frontiersmen. How he came to this position is discussed by Marshall W. Fishwick in "Daniel Boone and the Pattern of the Western Hero," in the April, 1953, *Filson Club History Quarterly*.

The Spring, 1953, *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* contains the following articles: "Lincoln's Home in 1860," by Kenneth Scott; "The Happy Soldier: The Mexican War Letters of John Nevin King," edited by Walter B. Hendrickson; "James Robert Mann: Legislator Extraordinary," by L. Ethan Ellis; "The Pioneers of Monmouth College," by F. Garvin Davenport; and "The Post Office in Illinois Politics of the 1850's," by Don E. Fehrenbacher.

Articles in the June, 1953, *Indiana Magazine of History* are: "Indiana in Political Transition, 1851-1853," by Roger H. Van Bolt, and "Settlers on Corn Belt Soil," by Richard Lyle Power.

Articles in the March, 1953, *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* are: "Mercantile Education in the Ante-Bellum South," by Lewis E. Atherton; "The Opposition of American Businessmen to Social Control During the 'Gilded Age,'" by Chester McA. Destler; "Frederic L. Paxson and His Approach to History," by Earl Pomeroy. The June, 1953, issue contains: "Before We Were Members—The MVHA," the presidential address of James L. Sellers; "The Building of the Sault Canal: 1852-1855," by Irene D. Neu; "The Garner Fugitive Slave Case," by Julius Yanuck; "How Stimson Meant to 'Maneuver' the Japanese," by Richard N. Current; "Pontiac's Rebellion and the British Troop Moves of 1763," by Charles S. Grant; and "Abraham Lincoln: Principle and Pragmatism in Politics," by T. Harry Williams.

"The New York Custom House: Seat of Spoils Politics," by William Hartman, appears in the April, 1953, *New York History*. Also included in that issue are "Regent [George William] Curtis and His Crusade for the Ideals of Democracy," by Charles C. Chadbourn, Jr.; and "Abandoned Farms and the 'New Agriculture' in New York State at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century," by A. William Høglund.

Two articles of general interest in the April, 1953, *Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* are "The Middle West and the Coming of World War I," by Arthur S. Link, and "The Middle West and the Coming of World War II," by Jeannette P. Nichols.

C. Vann Woodward's presidential address to the Southern Historical Association — "The Irony of Southern History" — was published in the February, 1953, *Journal of Southern History*. The work of Lyman Draper, secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society from 1854 to 1886, is discussed by William B. Hesseltine in "Lyman Draper and the South."

The struggle for the million-acre land grant given to Wisconsin in 1856, for the building of a railroad, is the subject of "Politics, Brown Bread, and Bologna," by Kenneth W. Duckett in the Spring, 1953, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. A contribution to medical history of the latter decades of the nineteenth century is "Notes on the Medical Practice of Dr. David Franklin Powell," by Mary Hardgrove Hebbard, which appears in the same issue.

### Iowa

Of particular value for the study of Iowa's political history is an article by Leland L. Sage of Iowa State Teachers College, "Weaver in Allison's Way," in the January, 1953, *Annals of Iowa*. The article deals with Senator William B. Allison's part in the election of Samuel J. Kirkwood as governor in 1875 and senator in 1876, a campaign in which James B. Weaver played a large part. Other articles in this issue of the *Annals* are "Securing the Blessings of Liberty," by Ora Williams, an account of Iowa's progress to statehood, and "First Assembly at Des Moines," by A. S. Bailey, a reminiscent manuscript deposited with the State Department of History and Archives at Des Moines in 1917, which deals with the 1858 General Assembly, the first to meet in Des Moines. The April, 1953, *Annals* contains the following articles: "Thomas Mitchell, A Sturdy Pioneer of Central

Iowa," by Lois Craig; "Keosauqua's Famous Men," by A. M. Piper; "Pioneer Animal Lore," by N. Tjernagel; and an article on the early days of baseball by Dr. Roger H. Van Bolt, "'Cap' Anson's First Contract."

A history of Templeton, in Carrol County, and its Sacred Heart Parish from 1878 to 1952 has been published in booklet form under the title "Through the Years."

The Boone *News-Republican* is carrying a series of articles on the history of Ogden. The first of this series appeared in the March 16, 1953, issue. Ogden was founded by the North Western Railroad promoters and was named for William B. Ogden, mayor of Chicago and a leading railroad capitalist.

Miss Grace S. Harsh began a series of articles on the history of Creston in the March 2, 1953, *Creston News-Advertiser*. Another town history, that of Klemme in Hancock County, is appearing in the *Klemme Times*.

In western Iowa, Kanesville was founded by the Mormons in 1846. Seven years later the name was changed to Council Bluffs. The *Nonpareil* of that city is observing the centennial of existence under the present name by a series of historical articles illustrated by sketches by George Simons.

Members of the Four-County Historical Society have been making a study of the early religious organizations of their district. The results of their researches were published in the February 18 and March 18, 1953, *Belle Plaine Union*.

The Dubuque County Historical Society has sponsored the preparation and publication of a 20-page booklet entitled "Dubuque: It's History and Background." The work was done by a committee headed by Miss Elsie Datisman, who had the assistance of Joseph Flynn and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. M. Hoffman.

Helen Johnson of Odebolt, regional historian, has contributed an article on Iowa's first school—that of Berryman Jennings in Lee County near present-day Keokuk—to the March 22, 1953, issue of the *Sioux City Journal*.

The June 1, 1953, *Mason City Globe-Gazette*—the "Centennial Edition"—might well serve as an example for all other newspaper centennial

editions. A tremendous amount of research has gone into the production of this issue of the paper. There are articles on each year of Mason City's history from 1853 to 1953; there are large sections devoted to the churches and schools; and there is a supplement: "The Mason City Story," which completes the history of the city's first 100 years, with articles on industry, schools, politics, the railroads, wars, and all the many phases of the life of a community.

In 1892 Onawa dedicated a new courthouse. Part of the ceremonies included a paper read by the town's first druggist, a Dr. Steppens, recounting the history of Onawa's first courthouse, built in 1858. The paper, written with all the ornate flourishes of late nineteenth century style, is published in the June 4, 1953, *Onawa Democrat*, and is well worth reading, not only for the snatches of history it contains, but as a typical example of old-time oratory.

Guthrie County was featured in the March 15, 1953, issue of the *New York Times Magazine*. The author, C. D. Palmer, chose this Iowa county for an article which sought to "see how Iowa farmers feel about things in general." The *Times* article was reprinted in the April 9, 1953, issue of the *Guthrie Center Times*.

The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa celebrated its 100th anniversary in Davenport, May 12-13, 1953. A brief history of the Episcopal churches of Iowa appeared in the May 11, 1953, *Davenport Times*.

A very full history of Central College at Pella appeared in the April 30, 1953, issue of the *Pella Chronicle*. The history was written by Mrs. Marvin Thostenson.

Several Iowa newspapers are contributing to local centennials by publishing series of stories about the early days of their towns. A series on Clarinda appeared in the April and May issues of the *Clarinda Herald-Journal*; Bruce Fishwild contributed a series on Cedar Rapids to the April issues of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*; and Miss Grace S. Harsh wrote of Creston in the May issues of the *Creston News-Advertiser*. The June issues of the *Nevada Journal* have some excellent stories on Story County history.