

## Chicago Westerners

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suspected band were known to be friends of the James brothers. Finally, after a bank robbery in Northfield, Minn., in Sept. 1876, Cole, Bob, and Jim Younger were caught and given life sentences. Jesse ostensibly was an honest citizen, living a normal family life in St. Joseph, Mo., under the name of "Thomas Howard." He was killed by the Fords, both members of the Younger gang, in April, 1882—at his home. The only misdeed that can be proved (on the authority of Frank and Jesse James Jr.), is that once Jesse gave a poor widow neighbor a sum of money to pay off her mortgage, and then robbed the banker after she had paid up.

**Dr. Edwin James**—by Dr. Irving S. Cutter, Health Editor, "Chicago Tribune" (April).

Edwin James was born in Middlebury, Vt., in 1779, and died in Burlington, Ia., in 1861 after contributing much to the development of the West. He was an outstanding botanist, scholar, explorer, agriculturist, humanitarian, and physician. Both his brothers, Daniel and John, were doctors also. A chronological record of his earlier life includes the following: graduation from Middlebury College in 1816; published the first survey ever made of Vermont plants in 1821; received his medical degree (in those days awarded by medical societies) and an appointment as surgeon to the scientific and military expedition headed by Gen. Henry Atkinson and Maj. Stephen H. Long. In this capacity he was the first to see and name the blue Colorado columbine, to climb the highest known peak (later attributed to Zebulon Pike by the explorer Fremont) although on Major Long's maps it was designated James Peak. In 1823, returning to Philadelphia, he compiled the two-volume record of these explorations.

His later army stations included service at Forts Bellefontaine, Crawford, Howard, Brady, and Severn. He learned the Ojibway language, meanwhile, publishing translations of school readers, texts, and the New Testament, as well as extremely valuable material on the ethnology of the Chippewas, the latter being published in French and German, also. Resigning from the army in 1833, he moved to Burlington, Ia., there to experiment in fruit and stock raising. He wrote many articles, essays, and letters, publishing these in the "North American Review," but mainly in the "Burlington HawkEye"—under the nom de plume of "Agricola." He worked for the abolitionist cause during the Civil War, aiding many slaves to escape. At the time of his death (from an accidental fall) he was compiling a history of Western explorations to include the expeditions of Schoolcraft, Lewis and Clark, Long, Keating, and many others. He remains Iowa's outstanding scientist.

**Solon Robinson, Pioneer Agriculturist.**—by Herbert A. Kellar, Director, the McCormick Historical Association (May).

From obscure beginnings, Solon Robinson rose to be the founder of Crown Point, Ind., in 1837; the first citizen of Lake County and owner of its first printing press; founder and organizer of the first national agricultural society—which, unfortunately was not granted the Smithsonian Fund by Congress, although backed by many influential citizens. Between 1841 and 1851 Solon travelled throughout

## LITTLE BIG HORN HERO



SGT. CHARLES WINDOLPH

The only known survivor of Gen. George A. Custer's 7th cavalry, who fought in the Battle of the Little Big Horn (under Captain Benteen) at the Little Big Horn in Montana, June 25-26, 1876, is Sgt. Charles Windolph, of Lead, S. D.

To him, The Westerners of Chicago have voted honorary life membership. An illuminated scroll, prepared under the direction of artist-member Burleigh Withers, has been sent to Sergeant Windolph.

the rural regions of the United States and Canada, writing agricultural articles which were published in many of the leading farm periodicals of the time.

In 1853 and through 1869 he was agricultural editor of Horace Greeley's "New York Tribune". But Solon's health failed in the latter year, and he moved to Jacksonville, Fla., where he continued writing until his death Nov. 3, 1880. In addition to his agricultural articles Solon also wrote novels, short stories, and verse—some of which had successful sales. His best work was an agricultural encyclopedia, "Facts for Farmers," written in 1863, which sold out several editions and was translated into German.

His last years were spent in expanding his valuable library, which was burned in the Jacksonville fire of 1901. He had five children by his first wife—one of whom, Lelia G. Bedell, became a distinguished physician in Chicago. He married a second time, in 1872, and upon his death, his widow carried out his last wishes, hanging an American flag (instead of a wreath) on the front door, with this inscription: "Solon Robinson is dead: being dead, he yet speaketh."

**Henry Louis Boquet**—by E. Douglas Branch, English Department, Montana State College (June).

Henry Boquet, born in 1719 in the hamlet of Rolle, Switzerland, enlisted when 17 (1736) in the service of the States General of Holland. He became Lieutenant colonel in the Swiss Guards later, and in 1756 was given the same rank in the (British) Royal American Regiment, recruiting in person immediately upon his arrival in America, in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In March, 1758, he was, ordered to join Gen. John Forbes, to march to the Forks of the Ohio, and take Fort Duquesne then held by the French.

Boquet was assigned to shape into an army some 6,000 men, Highlanders Englishmen, colonists from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania—including 200 Indian scouts from the Carolinas. Drilling in American (not European) warfare began at Raystown (now Bedford) where roads ended in trackless wilderness. Fort Duquesne fell on Dec. 5, 1758, and Boquet consolidated the victory with peace conferences, the building of Fort Pitt, and the reconstruction of roads. Until 1763 he remained on the frontiers, dreaming of becoming a rich country gentleman, of marrying a Philadelphia belle and settling down peacefully.

But Pontiac's Conspiracy took him into the field again and resulted in his brilliant victory over the Indians at the Battle of Bushy Run. Later he invaded the heart of the Indian country, achieving peace which was to last for ten years—and was rewarded in 1765 by a brigadier-generalship. In the meantime his lady married another, plunging him into "melancholy solitude". He was ordered to Fort St. George (Pensacola, Fla.) and there caught yellow fever, which ended his career as the most brilliant leader of light infantry forces of his time. "A drummer got a dollar for crying the sale of his effects....."

**"Trapper Trails to the Sisk-ke-dee"**—by Carl P. Russell, chief naturalist of the National Park Service (July-August).

In northwestern Wyoming, where the Absarokas merge with the Wind River range, is a comparatively small spot of high country where the melting snows divide their waters three ways, sending them to the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Gulf of California. Some of these waters make the Green river—the Seeds-ke-dee-agie, or Sage Hen river, of the Crow Indians, and the Sisk-ke-dee of the trappers.

The peculiar configuration of the terrain here played a part in determining the routes of the first explorers and the trails of the mountain men, or trappers, who, early in the history of the West, discovered that this area was their particular paradise.

Here was played the most thrilling chapter of the drama of the fur trade in America—by such fine men as Gen. William Ashley, Andrew Henry, Jedediah Smith, Manuel Lisa, Old Jim Bridger, the Astorians, the men of the Hudson's Bay Company and especially by three men who deserve special niches in the Westerner's Hall of Fame—John Hoback, Edward Robinson, and Jacob Reznor.

This country was the scene of that unique institution of the fur trade—the annual "rendezvous" in the Jackson Hole, which with its beaver streams epitomizes the trapper's role in the Winning of the West. In these great fur fields was staged the powerful, moving drama of "Joint Occupancy" of the contest between Great Britain and America for domination of the Oregon country. Here was no playing of diplomacy by the textbooks; the nation's effective energy of westward expansion was awakened in the trapper's camps of the Snake and Green. The heritage of American traits and frontier tradition, in which we as a nation take pride, finds living expression in this very appropriate historic reserve, the Jackson Hole National Monument, established by Presidential proclamation on March 15, 1943. No other spot in the old Oregon country could constitute a more significant shrine.