



RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Ramsey County Historical Society
"History close to home"
Landmark Center, 75 W. 5th St.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Special
125th City
130th County
Birthday
Anniversary
Issue

Volume 15
Number 1



Ramsey County History

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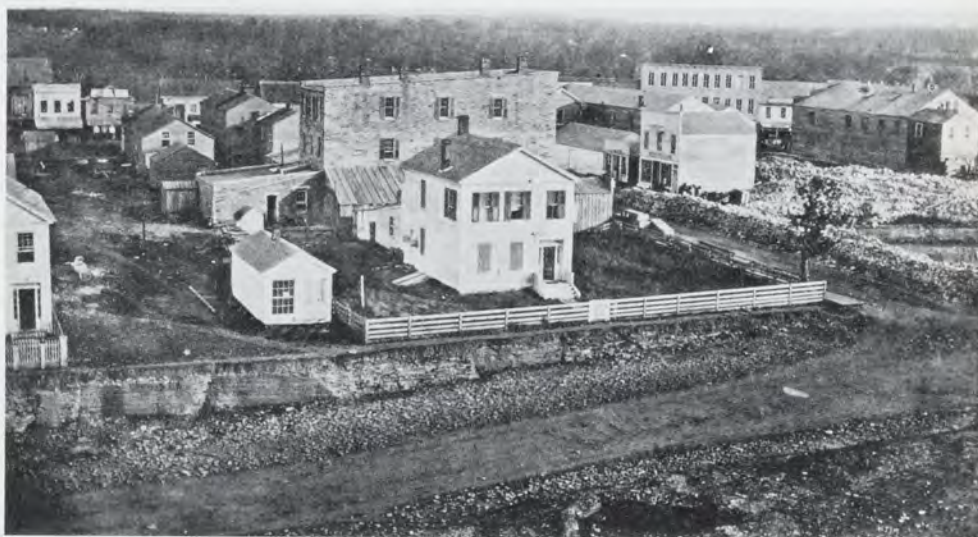
ON THE COVER: Steamboats tie up at St. Paul's Lower Levee at the foot of Jackson Street in 1859. Two of them were owned by Louis Robert: the "Time and Tide" and the "Jeannette Roberts," second from right. An "s" was added in anglicizing the name.

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Panoramic Views of St. Paul in 1857

That's what B.F. Upton, a photographer from St. Anthony, labeled these photographs of the growing city of St. Paul. One pleasant summer day in 1857, Upton climbed to the roof of the old courthouse on Courthouse Square, between Fourth and Fifth, Wabasha and Cedar. Pointing his camera south from the corner of Fourth and Wabasha, he shot nine over-lapping views of the city. St. Paul was still the capital of a territory, not a state, some of the streets had not yet been cut through the limestone ledges, but Third Street already had eclipsed Bench Street as the principal business thoroughfare.

The white two-story frame house was built by D.A. Robertson, founder of the Minnesota Democrat. The large stone building behind it is the Sligo Iron Company's building built by W.R. Marshall, later a governor of Minnesota. This is the site today of the Radisson Hotel. This building was replaced in 1866 by the city's first Opera House (see page 8). Across the street is the Green Tree Saloon, next to the open space where the city/county courthouse stands today. The McClung Block on Third Street looms over the saloon's roof.



Christ Episcopal Church, the pioneer Episcopal Church in the northwest, faces Cedar in the center of this picture. Across the street is the home of H.A. Lambert, and next to it his "Inns of Court," the three-story brick structure. Whitney's photograph Gallery occupied the third floor.





Left: Fourth beginning in corner, runs Robert, but center, still stone quar was just be the limestone link Fourth Street. The House, a fa is the three at center.

Right: This is today's Lowertown area, with Dayton's Bluff in the distance. Against the bluff to the right is James C. Burbank's mansion crowning the hill that once existed at Fourth and Sibley. Behind his house and to the left is First Baptist Church standing on Baptist Hill, now Mears Park. The big square building on the extreme left is the Fuller House, later the International Hotel, at Seventh and Jackson.

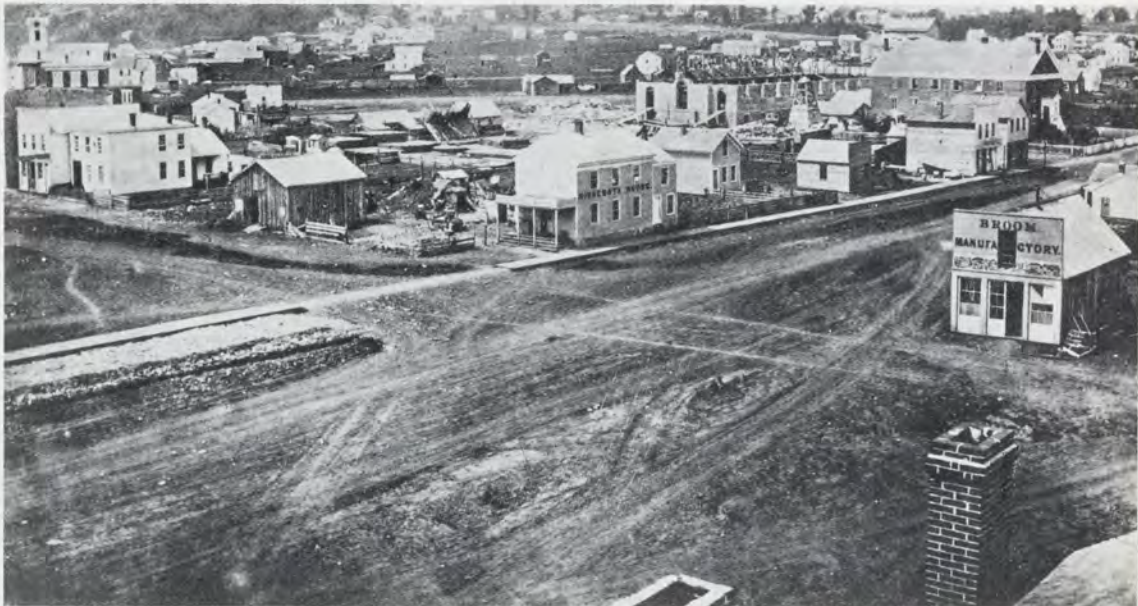
Below: The "new" county jail, begun March 25, 1857, takes shape in the foreground. In the upper center of the picture is the Jackson Street M.E. Church built in 1856 at Ninth and Jackson and, somewhat altered as a business building, still standing.



Fourth street,
 running in the righthand
 side, runs down toward
 the river, but Cedar, at right,
 still looks like a
 quarry. The street
 is being cut through
 a limestone ledge to
 run north with Third
 Street. The Lafayette
 Hotel, a famous old hotel,
 is a three-story building
 on the corner.



Above: Wabasha begins at left, center, and runs past the city market, the long building, on the corner of Seventh and Wabasha. The state capitol, center, at Tenth and Cedar, was destroyed by fire, and replaced by the capitol which stood on the same site until the 1930s. At right is the early Central Presbyterian Church. The white house, left, foreground, was the home of Judge Lafayette Emmett, brother of Dan Emmett who wrote "Dixie," perhaps while in St. Paul. The low house, left, center, belonged to Vetal Guerin, and is on Dayton's site today.



Above: St. Paul's third cathedral is under construction in this view across the intersection of Fifth and Wabasha. The Broom Manufacturing, an early business, is on the corner of today's Osborn Plaza. Far left, center, is City Hall with the Baldwin School beside it.



Left: Rice Park, right, center, stretches from City Hall, right, past Market Street Methodist Church, seen here from the rear. The large house at the right belongs to the Rev. J.G. Riheldaffer. It's close to Murphy's location today, while the little Chair Factory stands at Fifth and Wabasha, the site of the St. Paul Building.



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THE GIBBS HOUSE

at 2097 West Larpenteur Avenue, Falcon Heights, is owned and maintained by the Ramsey County Historical Society as a restored farm house of the mid-nineteenth century period.

The Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. Its chief function is to collect and preserve the history of the city and the county and share that history with the people who live here. The Society is the county's historian. It preserves those things from the past that are the community's treasures — its written records through the Society's library; its historic sites through establishment of the Irvine Park Historic District and its successful efforts to help prevent destruction of the Old Federal Courts Building, now Landmark Center. It shares these records through the publishing of its magazine, brochures, pamphlets, and prints; through conducting historic sites tours of the city, teaching classes, producing exhibits on the history of the city, and maintaining its museum on rural county history. The Gibbs Farm Museum, the oldest remaining farm home in Ramsey County, was acquired by the Society in 1949 and opened to the public in 1954 as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler. In 1966 the Society moved onto the property a one-room rural country schoolhouse dating from the 1870s. Now restored to the period of the late 1890s, the school is used for classes, meetings, and as the center for a summer schoolhouse program for children.

Society headquarters are located in Landmark Center, an historic Richardsonian Romanesque structure in downtown St. Paul, where it maintains the center's only permanent exhibit, a history of the building during the seventy-five years it was the federal government's headquarters in St. Paul.

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