

# RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



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# Ramsey County History

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### ON THE COVER:

Red River ox carts lined up on Third Street (now Kellogg Boulevard) in front of Cheritree and Farwell's Hardware store in 1859. Charles William Wulff Borup, as agent for the American Fur Company, arranged for carts to haul furs for traders.

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## Ramsey County History Wins Award

A CERTIFICATE of commendation for the excellence of its magazine, *Ramsey County History*, was awarded the Ramsey County Historical Society by the American Association for State and Local History during the Association's annual convention at Toronto, Canada, in August.

Russell W. Fridley, director of the Minnesota Historical Society and president of the American Association for State and Local History, presented the certificate to President Margaret W. Wall at the Ramsey County Historical Society's fall dinner and membership meeting in November.

In making the presentation, he told the Society members that the award is inter-

national in scope, that only eight awards had been made to local county societies at this year's convention and that the Ramsey Society received the only award for a county historical society magazine. He added:

"Those most deserving the award are the editor, who conceived the magazine and developed it with great skill and imagination; the members of the Editorial Board, who have maintained the high standards which are the hallmarks of the magazine, and the members of the Society's Board of Directors who have vigorously supported this innovating type of magazine which is relatively rare in the field of county history magazines."

Paul. He was crafted and raised on June 15, 1852. In 1854, he affiliated with the St. Paul Lodge No. 3. Interested in the early organizations in the Territory of Minnesota, he helped found the Minnesota Historical Society in 1849.<sup>22</sup>

As an American citizen, Borup was an ardent republican and delighted in contrasting the United States with European governments.<sup>23</sup> However, he remained fond of his homeland. On April 9, 1859, he was appointed the first Vice Consul for Denmark in St. Paul. His appointment marked the establishment of the first Scandinavian consulate in Minnesota.<sup>24</sup>

Three months later, on July 7, 1859, Charles Borup died of a heart attack.<sup>25</sup> He left behind a comfortably large estate for his wife, Elizabeth, and their nine surviving children. At the time of his death, Borup was described as the "wealthiest man in St. Paul."

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### THE GIBBS HOUSE

*Headquarters of the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue W., St. Paul, Minn.*

THE Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. During the following years the Society, believing that a sense of history is of great importance in giving a new, mobile generation a knowledge of its roots in the past, acquired the 100-year-old farm home which had belonged to Heman R. Gibbs. The Society restored the Gibbs House and in 1954 opened it to the public as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler.

In 1958 the Society erected a barn, behind the house, which is maintained as an agricultural museum to display the tools and other implements used by the men who broke up the prairie soil and farmed with horse and oxen.

Today, in addition to maintaining the Gibbs property, the Ramsey County Historical Society is active in the preservation of historic sites in Ramsey county, conducts tours, prepares pamphlets and other publications, organizes demonstrations of pioneer crafts and maintains a Speakers' Bureau for schools and organizations. It is the Society's hope that through its work the rich heritage of the sturdy men and women who were the pioneers of Ramsey County will be preserved for future generations.