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The Other Librarian

Clara Baldwin and the Public Library

Movement in Minnesota

— Page 4



Clara F. Baldwin in 1936, shortly before her retirement from her position as the director of the Division of Libraries in the Minnesota Department of Education. She was a long-time leader in the Public Library movement in Minnesota whose career is profiled in this issue. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

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THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN JULY 2003:

The Ramsey County Historical Society shall discover, collect, preserve and interpret the history of the county for the general public, recreate the historical context in which we live and work, and make available the historical resources of the county. The Society's major responsibility is its stewardship over this history.

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A Message from the Editorial Board

The theme for this issue is the creativity of diverse Ramsey county residents as they responded to change. Bob Garland adds an important chapter to Minnesota women's history with his account of Clara F. Baldwin, who headed the drive to build a library system in greater Minnesota as its population grew. From the time she graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1892, Baldwin worked to make books accessible to all Minnesotans. As state librarian from 1900 to 1936, she first oversaw the development of traveling libraries, then a comprehensive system of local libraries. James Brown follows an earlier article for this magazine with more lively reminiscences of growing up in the 1920s and '30s in Frogtown, which was then a vital neighborhood near the state capitol that included African-American residents. His early relationships and activities, followed by his education on racism at the neighborhood barbershop, make a compelling read. And Anne Beiser Allen tells the intriguing story of Rev. Henry B. Whipple's election as the first Episcopal bishop of Minnesota in 1859, as that denomination was expanding in the new state. We hope you enjoy reading it all.

Anne Cowie
Chair, Editorial Board

Roseville's "Lost Son" Honored

John M. Lindley

The Spring 2007 issue of *Ramsey County History* carried an article titled "Lost Son: The Forgotten Fate of Roseville's First Child, Benjamin Rose," which was written by Pat Hill and Cindy Rose Torfin. In this article, Hill, a dedicated Civil War historian, and Torfin, the great-great-niece of Benjamin Rose, wrote how Benjamin Rose and his older brother, Gideon, fought together in 1862 as members of Company H, 1st Battalion, of the 18th U.S. Infantry at the Battle of Stones River near Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Gideon S. and Benjamin Reily Rose were among the eight children of Isaac Rose, one of St. Paul's earliest white settlers and the man for whom Roseville is named. Benjamin was the first child of two European-born parents to be born in Roseville.



The headstone honoring the Civil War service of Private Benjamin R. Rose. Photo courtesy of Pat Hill.

He was also the first of three Rose brothers to enlist in the Union Army. Gideon followed soon after, and later brother Henry followed. When the 18th Infantry was ordered to provide security along the Nashville-Chattanooga Railroad in late 1862, Gideon and Benjamin subsequently fought Confederate forces at Stones River on January 1, 1863. Although the Union defenders sustained heavy casualties at Stones River, they halted the enemy's

assault. In the fighting Gideon was seriously wounded in the hip. He was evacuated and later recovered. His younger brother, although unwounded, later fell victim to typhoid fever and subsequently died on February 19.

Gideon Rose survived the remainder of the war and died in St. Paul in 1892. He's buried in the Soldier's Rest section of Oakland Cemetery, which includes 133 markers identifying those with a connec-



The headstone marking the grave of Private Gideon S. Rose. Photo courtesy of Pat Hill.

tion to the Civil War. Brother Benjamin Rose's body, however, was never recovered and is likely among the 2,500 unknown soldiers buried in Murfreesboro.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Hill and Torfin, however, the National Park Service recently confirmed that Benjamin Rose was one of those unknown soldiers. This official confirmation then led to the Veterans Administration approving funding for a headstone honoring Roseville's first-born son to be placed alongside that of Gideon Rose at Oakland. The cemetery generously donated the land and the labor to install the marker. In a ceremony held on August 11, 2007, Benjamin Rose received public recognition of his Civil War service with the dedication of this headstone.

Oakland Cemetery, located at 927 Jackson Street, with its Soldier's Rest section is open to the public. In recent years the cemetery has hosted a two-hour Civil War walking tour on Memorial Day. It also has other public tours from time to time that highlight the graves of those buried in the Soldier's Rest area.



A postcard view from about 1909 showing the Carnegie Library in Spring Valley, Minnesota. For more on Clara F. Baldwin and her role in the Public Library movement in Minnesota, see Robert Garland's article beginning on page 4. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

R.C.H.S.
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