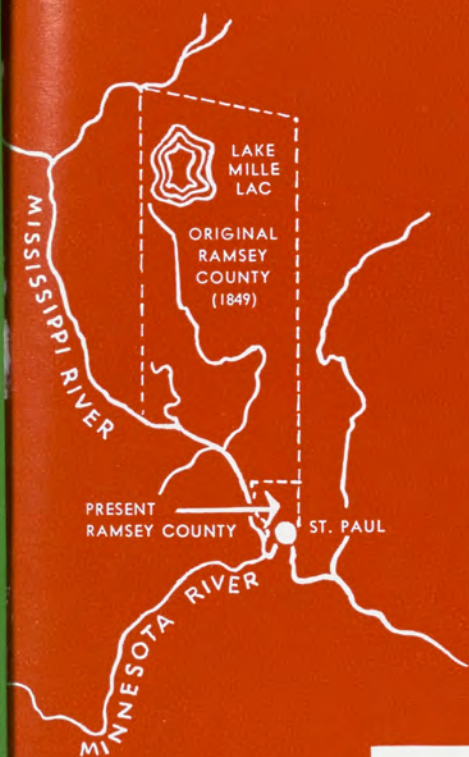


RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



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ON THE COVER: This picture of Fort Snelling, taken about 1870, is an example of the work of William H. Illingworth, pioneer St. Paul photographer whose career is described in the story beginning on Page 9. This is an appropriate cover picture because it also illustrates the story of the early explorers of the Ramsey County area, beginning on Page 3. It was from the Fort that expeditions of exploration set forth into the "howling wilderness" of the Minnesota area between the 1820's and the 1850's.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: All pictures in this issue, unless otherwise indicated, are from the Picture Department of the Minnesota Historical Society. The editor is indebted to Eugene Becker, picture curator, and his assistant, Dorothy Gimme-stad, for their help.

Forgotten Pioneers III

RAMSEY COUNTY has had its share of famous pioneers whose names fill the pages of the history books. But there have been many more men and women who have been almost forgotten but who made outstanding contributions and left their names upon streets, parks, buildings, and in the official records. The following article is the third in a new feature in Ramsey County History, a series of sketches of "forgotten pioneers."

ROSE TOWNSHIP, now almost entirely absorbed into the Village of Roseville, bears the name of one of Ramsey County's earliest pioneers—Isaac Rose.

Born in 1802 in Burlington County, New Jersey, Rose moved to Ohio as a young man and there, at Dayton in 1825, he married Mary Harvey. From 1827 to 1832 he fought the Indians with the Sixth United States Army Regulars. The regiment spent the winters in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

He returned home in 1832, determined to move west despite his wife's protests that "we'll all be scalped." The family, which then included two boys and a girl, farmed in Illinois and near Fort Madison, Iowa, before moving to St. Paul in July of 1843.

Rose built a log cabin on the Mississippi River bank at Shadow Falls, about a block north of where Summit Avenue now ends. The cabin was located on section 32, near Stephen Desnoyer's farm.

Later in 1843, Isaac Rose's daughter and L. S. Furnell became the first couple to be married in the township. His third son, Benjamin R. Rose, was born January 17, 1844, and was the first child born in Rose Township. Twins, Mary Ann and Andrew Jackson Rose, were born in the same log cabin on July 26, 1846.

IN 1847, Rose took up a claim of 160 acres of land on St. Anthony Road and built a log cabin near what is now the intersection of Fairview and St. Anthony Avenues. The young children roamed and hunted in the timberlands along the river.

When the federal land survey was made in 1850, Isaac Rose helped map the area.

It was for this reason that Rose Township was named for him.

That year, part of the Fort Snelling military land reserve was opened to settlers. Rose sold his farm to Alfred Fuller (for whom Fuller Avenue was named) for \$600, and took up a 160-acre claim bounded by what are now Summit, Snelling, St. Clair, and Fairview Avenues. He paid the minimum government price for it: \$1.25 per acre. This tract included the site of present-day Macalester College.

HIS TWO YOUNGER sons, Benjamin and Andrew, attended the first school built in Rose Township, a one-room structure near St. Anthony and Fairview. In 1857, Rose and E. N. Larpenteur, who were school trustees, decided the school was too far away for their children, so they hitched up nine yoke of oxen and dragged the school to Snelling Avenue, nearer their homes.

The Rose family lived on their Summit Avenue farm for nearly ten years. When the Township Reserve was organized on May 11, 1858, Isaac Rose was an election judge. Later he was elected one of the town supervisors. On December 24, 1859, he sold the farm for \$5,500 to Thomas Holyoke of New York City, and bought 160 acres in Cottage Grove and 40 acres of timberland on Grey Cloud Island. He lived in Cottage Grove for a few years then sold out and moved back to St. Paul, locating on Marshall near Western Avenue.

In 1867 Rose went South because of ill health. Four years later on February 11, 1871, he died in Ottawa, Minnesota, on his way back to St. Paul. He was 69 years old.



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.