



RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



Spring

1970

Volume 7

Number 1

Ramsey County History

Published by the RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Virginia Brainard Kunz

Spring 1970 Volume 7 Number 1	St. Anthony Park: History of a 'Small Town' Clang! Went the Trolleys, And Memories Echo St. Paul's Colorful Streetcar Era Murder Most Foul! Forgotten Pioneers . . . IX	Page 3 Pages 12-13 Page 14 Page 16 Page 21
--	---	--

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY is published semi-annually and copyrighted, 1970, by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota. Membership in the Society carries with it a subscription to Ramsey County History. Single issues sell for \$1.00. Correspondence concerning contributions should be addressed to the editor. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Manuscripts and other editorial material are welcomed but, since the Society is an eleemosynary institution, no payment can be made for contributions. All articles and other editorial material submitted will be carefully read and published, if accepted, as space permits.

ON THE COVER: This somewhat romantic illustration, "The Beautiful Moonlight in Dakota Land," is from the equally romanticized, imaginative "history" of St. Paul by Col. Hankins described in the article beginning on page 16.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Pictures used with the St. Anthony Park article are from the Ramsey County Historical Society. Those with the stories on the old trolleys and John R. Irvine are from the Minnesota Historical Society. Pictures with the story on Col. Hankins' St. Paul history are from the book itself. The editor is indebted to Eugene Becker and Dorothy Gimestad of the Minnesota Historical Society's audiovisual library for their help, and also to Henry Hall, chairman of the Ramsey County Historical Society's Publications Committee, who reproduced the pictures from Hankins' book.

The Ramsey County Historical Society

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Hayden L. Stright
President

Frank Paskewitz
First Vice President

Henry H. Cowie, Jr.
Second Vice President

Mrs. Robert Mirick
Recording Secretary

Mrs. Robert Emahiser
Corresponding Secretary

John Baird
Treasurer

CURATORS, The Gibbs Farm Museum
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Lettermann

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Virginia Brainard Kunz

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edward Brooks, Jr.
Mrs. K. E. Nordquist
Theodore Horwitz
Mrs. Robert Mirick
Albert Beltmann
James Dickenson
W. Brooks Cavin, Jr.
Harold Macy
Juliette Myren
Bartlett Baker
Alan R. Woolworth
John Baird
Wallace Boss
Dr. Richard Wright
Mrs. William L. Mason III
Stephen A. Osborn
John Hilbert
Mrs. James O. Wall
Henry Cowie, Jr.
Frank Paskewitz
Richard Vogl

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Henry Hall, chairman
Gerald McKay
Clarence W. Rife
William L. Cavert
Bartlett Baker
Edward Brooks, Jr.

THE BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Charles McCarty
George A. Hardenbergh
John E. Daubney
Mrs. Donald M. DeCourcy
Arthur T. Gibbons

Roy P. Nadeau
Ed Salverda
Thomas J. Kelley
James D. Swan
Thomas Quayle



Photo by Henry Hall

THE GIBBS HOUSE

Headquarters of the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota.

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 farm 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. In 1966, the Society moved to its museum property a one-room rural schoolhouse, dating from the 1870's. The white frame school came from near Milan, Minnesota. Now restored to the period of the late 1890's, the school actually is used for classes and meetings. In the basement beneath the school building, the Society has its office, library and collections. In 1968, the Society acquired from the University of Minnesota the use of the white barn adjoining the Society's property. Here is housed a collection of carriages and sleighs which once belonged to James J. Hill.

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.