

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



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ON THE COVER: The Baldwin School, founded by the Rev. Edward D. Neill, after he secured a charter for the school from the 1853 Territorial Legislature. It was named for a Philadelphia locomotive builder, M. W. Baldwin, who helped finance the school. This two-story brick building stood on West Fifth Street, across from Rice Park, the present site of the Old Federal Courts Building. The school building served as a post office from 1857 to 1862.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: All pictures used in this issue are from the audio-visual department of the Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

MACALESTER And Its First Forty Years

BY EDWARD SWANSON

On March 5, 1874, the Legislature of the state of Minnesota approved an act establishing Macalester College. But the actual history of Macalester can be traced back to as early as 1853, through a series of educational ventures promoted by Edward Duffield Neill, Minnesota's "Apostle of Education."

Dr. Neill was born in Philadelphia on August 9, 1823, the fifth son and ninth of ten children born to Dr. Henry Neill and his wife, Martha Duffield Neill. After spending two years at the University of Pennsylvania, he transferred to Amherst College and was graduated in 1842. He spent the following year at Andover Theological Seminary and later completed his theological training under the tutelage of the Rev. Albert Barnes and Dr. Thomas Brainerd, two eminent Philadelphia clergymen. During a part of 1846, Neill taught school in Accomack County, Virginia, but he resigned in December because of difficulties he encountered when he supported a local minister who had preached abolitionism.

Neill's first venture into the West was in early 1847 when he traveled to Illinois, where he was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Galena. In October he married Nancy Hall of Worcester County, Maryland. Years later he described her as a "true wife who has lightened the home, and is beloved by the community in which she lives."¹ Following their marriage, the Neills returned to Illinois, he "having decided to identify himself with frontier communities, that had not yet been molded into form."² He preached first to the lead miners near Galena, and in the spring of 1848 he was ordained.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Edward Swanson, head of the technical services department of the Minnesota Historical Society, is a 1964 graduate of Macalester College. He has written several other articles on the early history of the college.

When Neill learned that Minnesota was about to become a Territory, he wrote to the Rev. Aratus Kent, senior member of the Presbytery of Galena, asking what plans were being made to provide ministers for the new territory.

"I am ready to go as a pioneer in that region. My wife and I are contented enough here, but it is almost too civilized. The latter fact would make it desirable to some that would not like to go so far from the luxuries and comforts of the East. If then, you are of the opinion that I and mine are the persons suited for a new field, I am at your disposal."³

His request was approved, and Neill arrived by steamboat in St. Paul on Monday, April 23, 1849, less than two months after creation of the territory. Almost the first person he met was James Goodhue, a fellow Amherst alumnus and editor of the *Minnesota Pioneer*. When the third volume of the *Pioneer* was completed three years later, Goodhue "paused to glance back at the past of Minnesota," and recalled, "Meantime, Rev. Mr. Neill arrived. It was encouraging to find a young man of education, courage and capital, ready to enlist all that he had or hoped on earth, in the fortunes of our town."⁴

A VISITOR from the East reported that on June 13 he counted all the buildings in St. Paul, "including shanties and those in every state of progress, from the foundation wall to completion," and found that they numbered 142. "Of the above, all, except about a dozen, were probably less than six months old." The buildings included three hotels, four warehouses, ten stores, three boarding-houses, and one school house, among other establishments. But, "there was not a brick or stone building in the place." The city population of just under one thousand included twelve attorneys and five physicians.⁵

At first Neill stayed at a boarding house run by Lott Moffett, but immediately he began

plans to erect a house at the corner of Fourth and Washington — the first brick house north of Prairie du Chien. He conducted his first church service in St. Paul on Sunday, April 29, in the school house on Bench Street. During the summer he preached in the Central House, the hotel on Bench Street which was also used as the temporary capitol. In September the first Protestant church building in St. Paul was completed, a wooden structure on the lot next to Neill's house; it was paid for largely by contributions from the First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. In January, 1850, Neill organized the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of St. Paul.

Neill's activities in the field of education in the new Territory also began that year. In December he was appointed one of a committee to establish public schools in the town, and at a public meeting he made a motion that three schools be established, "one at the school house in the upper end of town, one at the school house to be erected at the lower end of town, and another at the brick church."⁶

In November, 1849, the Territorial Legislature established the school system for the Territory. Chairman of the committee was Martin McLeod and, doubtlessly, Neill advised him on the legislation. In March, 1851, Neill was appointed the first superintendent of schools for the Territory, and he served in that office for two years. Five years later the Legislature established, in St. Paul, the first school district in the Territory. Neill was elected its secretary and, *ex officio*, superintendent of schools.

An abortive attempt had been made to start the University of Minnesota in 1851, and Neill had been active in the project. When the University was reorganized early in 1860, Neill was elected chancellor. Legislation was passed over strong opposition in the State Senate that the chancellor of the University should also serve as the state superintendent of public instruction. Neill served until February 21, 1861, when he resigned because of this opposition. On March 7, the law was changed to provide that the Legislature elect the superintendent, and Neill was elected with only six dissenting votes. He then was prevailed upon to withdraw his resignation as chancellor, and he held both offices until July, 1861. During this time he also was active in establishing the Normal School at Winona.

THE WOODEN structure housing the First Presbyterian Church burned in May, 1850, and Neill immediately began construction of a brick church on Third Street and St. Peter. In December, 1854, he resigned as its minister in order to devote more of his time to his educational projects. He served as a mission pastor until late in 1855, when he established the House of Hope Presbyterian Church, whose first building stood at the corner of Oak and Walnut. It was built in 1857; until then the congregation had met in the chapel of the College of Saint Paul and in Irvine Hall. Neill resigned this pastorate on June 20, 1860. Among his other interests was the Minnesota Historical Society, of which he was a charter member. He gave the first lecture to the Society on January 1, 1850, less than three months after its founding. He also wrote extensively in the field of history.

By late 1851, Neill's plans for a private school for girls were taking shape. He proposed the plans to the Rev. Mr. Barnes while on a trip to Philadelphia. Barnes put him in touch with Matthias W. Baldwin, the locomotive builder, and Baldwin pledged \$1,500 for the school. Barnes also contributed to the venture.

Baldwin School was chartered by the Territorial Legislature on February 26, 1853, "to promote the education of youth." The original trustees included Neill, John C. Whitney, John G. Riheldaffer, Gideon Pond, Alexander Ramsey, William R. Marshall, Henry L. Moss, Henry F. Masterson, and Alpheus G. Fuller.⁷

The first classes were held on Pearl Street, and while the Baldwin School originally had been intended as a school for girls, its classes also were opened to boys under the age of twelve. The first year the enrollment was forty-three girls and twenty-eight boys. In December, 1853, a two-story brick building was erected on Fifth Street between Market and Washington, on the site of the Old Federal Courts Building, at a cost of more than \$8,000.

NEILL NOW BEGAN work on his plans for a men's college. Toward this venture Baldwin contributed \$5,000, and Barnes \$1,000. On February 23, 1856, the school was formally incorporated by the Legislature as the College of Saint Paul, "to afford in-



struction in English literature, in Ancient and Modern Languages, in Mathematics, and the Natural Sciences, and in the application of Science to Agriculture and the Professions."⁸ A stone building was built on Wilkin Street to house the College. Financial difficulties were present from the first, and the Panic of 1857 further impeded its development.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Neill left Minnesota to serve as chaplain to the First Minnesota Regiment. He later was appointed a United States Army chaplain and assigned to the South Street Military Hospital in Philadelphia. In February, 1864, he became one of President Lincoln's secretaries, assigned to read correspondence and to sign land patents. He remained in this position during President Andrew Johnson's term. In April, 1867, Neill became chief clerk in the newly-created federal Department of Education. In 1869, President Grant named him to the United States Consul in Dublin.

During his absence from Minnesota, Neill had not abandoned his plans for a college. In late 1863 he suggested to Baldwin that Baldwin become the patron of a new school to which the property of the Baldwin School and the College of Saint Paul would be con-

The Winslow House, center background, with St. Anthony Falls in the foreground. Painted by Ferdinand Reichardt in 1857.

veyed. Baldwin expressed interest, and at his request Neill prepared a charter for Baldwin University.

"To prevent any hasty action of the Trustees, in organizing the higher departments while Mr. Neill was absent, a provision was inserted that there should be no such departments until two professorships were endowed."⁹

Baldwin approved the charter and seemed sympathetic to the suggestion that he endow one of the professorships. In early 1865, however, he wrote: "I can't advance enough capital to endow a professorship this year, with all my other engagements. I will advance \$1,800 to pay the salary of a Professor for this year. If that will be of any use, you may rely on that."¹⁰ Neill did not accept this proposal, but suggested that Baldwin contribute \$50,000 over the next two years. Baldwin replied that his generosity depended largely on his business successes and that he didn't feel he could undertake this responsibility. When he died in 1866, Baldwin left no bequest to Baldwin University.¹¹

THE CHARTER which Neill prepared was submitted to the Legislature. Since the



The Rev. Edward D. Neill

State Constitution prohibited the granting of charters by the Legislature, it was proposed that the charters of the schools already in existence be amended; the amendatory act was passed March 3, 1864. Because the financial backing for Baldwin University had not been forthcoming, Neill and Barnes suggested in 1869 that funds that were available be used to support a lectureship in history, but apparently this was not acted upon.¹²

Neill returned to Minnesota in December, 1871, determined once more to open a college to educate young men on a Christian basis. He was able to rent for \$100 a month the facilities of the Winslow House, a once fashionable resort-hotel located on a high bluff near the Falls of St. Anthony in the village of St. Anthony. The Winslow House had been built in 1856-57 by James Winslow, a pioneer St. Paul hosteler, at a cost of almost \$110,000, to cater to the trade coming up the Mississippi River by steamboat. It was an imposing limestone structure, five stories in height and covering half an acre of ground. Its 200 rooms were furnished as well as any first-class hotel in the country, an additional \$45,000 having been spent on the furnishings. The dining room seated 500 people, and the ballroom had been described as the "most capacious and beautiful" in the West outside of Chicago.

The outbreak of the Civil War cut off

much of the hotel's clientele, and it closed. Attempts to reopen it failed. For a while it housed a water-cure establishment, but this too failed. In the meantime, the ownership of the property passed to Charles Macalester, a wealthy Philadelphia merchant and banker.

NEIL REOPENED the Baldwin School, and projected plans for a college. He named it Jesus College, after Jesus College at Cambridge University. It was designed to afford instruction with a religious background. Two schools were to comprise the institution: the Baldwin Grammar School, "designed to prepare students for the University of Minnesota," and the School of Christian Literature, "supplemental to the State University."¹³ The first term opened in September, 1872, in Winslow House. It was to be non-sectarian, and to complement the secular education offered by the University. William Watts Folwell, president of the University, was sympathetic to the plan, but little if any public support was gained.

In 1873 Neill prevailed upon Macalester to give the building to him for the College. At first Macalester was not receptive. He wrote Neill that Bishop Henry Whipple, the Episcopal bishop of Minnesota, had wanted the property for a hospital, and that while he had been cool to this idea at first, he now was inclined toward it, because "the country is Swimming with Educational institutions, most of them crippled and always in pecuniary trouble." He went on to state that these were his views, and if he were mistaken in them, he would "be glad to be corrected."¹⁴

Apparently Neill was just the person to correct him, for in October Macalester wrote Neill that he had executed a codicil to his will in which he left the property for the purposes Neill proposed, provided that within three years from the time of his death an endowment of \$25,000 be raised, and that if the property were sold, the proceeds from the sale would be used only to erect other buildings for the College.

Macalester died on December 9, 1873. On March 5, 1874, ten years and two days after the Legislature had amended the original charter of Baldwin School to change its name to Baldwin University, they again amended it, this time changing its name to Macalester College. Fifteen trustees were named, seven from St. Paul and eight from Minneapolis. Of the trustees of the original

Baldwin School of 1853, the names of Alexander Ramsey, Henry L. Moss, and John C. Whitney also appeared on the list of trustees of Macalester College.

BY THE END OF 1874, the \$25,000 endowment had been raised, and after some time the executors of Macalester's will were satisfied that the conditions set forth had been fulfilled. Baldwin School became the preparatory department of the College, and classes were held in the Winslow House. By 1881, the financial situation had grown severe, and classes were temporarily suspended on November 25.

As early as 1870, at the first meeting of the reunited Synod of Minnesota of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., the proposal was made to establish a Presbyterian college in the state. No action was taken at that meeting, and the project lay dormant until 1878, when the Synod adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to consult and cooperate with the Trustees of Macalester College, with a view to the immediate establishment of an educational institution in connection with this Synod."¹⁵

The committee also was empowered to appoint an agent to assist in raising funds for the College. The committee reported at the 1879 meeting of Synod that there had been several meetings with the trustees of Macalester College. All of the meetings had been cordial, but several circumstances existed that the committee felt were "untoward." Macalester already was established in "name, location, government, and presidency," and while the committee did not take issue with these, they felt that if the broadest support for it were to be expected, the members of the Presbyterian Church in the state should be able to have some say in these matters. And, "however competent its president may be, he should be a *Presbyterian*."¹⁶

Apparently the reservations were overcome during the next year, for in its report on October 15, 1880, the committee listed seven points in favor of adopting Macalester College as the Synod's educational institution. They also recommended that the Synod "heartily cooperate with the Trustees in the effort to speedily and liberally endow Macalester" and that it "recommend it to the sympathy and support of all the churches

under our care."¹⁷ At the same meeting the Synod voted to establish a college for women at Albert Lea.

The Rev. Daniel Rice was employed as the Synod's agent to raise funds for the two schools. By October, 1883, a net amount of almost \$45,000 had been paid or pledged for the colleges. Two-thirds of the amount was designated for Macalester. During the following year a \$30,000 endowment for the President's Chair at Macalester was completed, and Neill resigned.

In 1881 a real estate syndicate was formed to purchase for \$150 an acre the property in Reserve Township known as the Holyoke Farm. This quarter section of land was bounded by the present Summit, Snelling, St. Clair, and Fairview avenues. It had been settled in the 1860's by Thomas Holyoke. In late August, 1853, it had been surveyed by Jesse T. Jarrett, deputy surveyor, who described it as "first rate soil," with a variety of trees, including oak, elm, ash, linden, maple and cottonwood.

THE SYNDICATE included John C. Whitney, Robert P. Lewis, Alexander Ramsey, Henry L. Moss, Thomas Cochran, H. Knox Taylor, and Charles E. Vanderburgh, most of them also trustees of Macalester College. They offered to the College as a gift forty acres for use as a campus. The rest of the property was platted and became known as Macalester Park. At once the rumor became current that the gift had been made as a speculative venture, whereby the syndicate hoped to increase the value of the other 120 acres. This, of course, was fervently denied.¹⁸

The College's Board of Trustees accepted the offer and selected the east quarter of the property. The choice was excellent. It was located approximately half-way between the two cities, and connected with both. Neill himself had promoted this location for the College. He had written to the secretary of the Board of Trustees:

". . . the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, in 20 years, at the present rate of increase, will contain not less than 250,000 souls, and their suburbs will touch. Between them, is the need of a centre which with its library, museum, gallery of art, laboratory, observatory and faculty of professors will radiate the pure light of Christian culture and scholarship through



the Twin Cities, to the regions beyond."¹⁹
 By 1890 his prophecy was fulfilled. The combined population of the two cities was 298,000. That year, also, the entire Reserve Township, from Dale Street west to the Mississippi and from Selby Avenue south to the river, was annexed to the city of St. Paul. Upon the urging of Archbishop John Ireland and Thomas Cochran, an electric streetcar line was opened along Grand Avenue from downtown St. Paul to Cleveland Avenue, and by 1898 the line on Snelling Avenue had been extended as far south as Grand Avenue, thus providing the campus with an easy connection to both cities.

IN THE MEANTIME, the area around the

The east wing of Macalester's Old Main, built in the summer of 1884 at a cost of about \$25,000.

Winslow House was beginning to be built up in factories and mills. Since the property in Reserve Township was available, the Board of Trustees arranged to sell the Winslow House property to the Minneapolis Exposition Company for \$40,000; \$10,000 was to be paid in real estate in Hennepin County, most of which was rental property in Minneapolis which provided a monthly income of \$40, and the other \$30,000 on time at six percent interest.²⁰

On April 18, 1883, the Building Committee of the Board of Trustees presented this

resolution to the Board:

"Resolved, that the first College building be placed upon the knoll about 880 feet from Summit Avenue, with its frontage thereon, the wing to be built this summer to be placed toward Snelling Avenue, the northeast corner of said wing to be about 286 feet from Snelling Avenue."²¹

Work was begun on the building and it was completed in 1884; \$30,000 was spent to build what today is known as the East Wing of Old Main. Three stories in height, it housed dining and laundry facilities and a gymnasium in the basement, a chapel and classrooms on the first floor, and dormitory space on the second and third floors. The rest of Old Main was constructed in 1887, at a cost of \$62,000, and contained ten classrooms, museum, library, and offices.

Neill had proposed to resign as president when an endowment of \$30,000 was raised for the President's Chair and a Presbyterian was named president. In 1880 he added the condition that he be chosen for the professorship of History and English Literature. As has been noted, these conditions were met in 1884.

At the Synod's meeting in 1882, a committee was chosen to select a new president for Macalester. Named to it were Daniel Rice, H. M. Knox, Russell B. Abbott, S. M. Campbell, D. L. Keihle, and S. J. R. McMullan. At the meeting the following year they reported:

"... several names have been suggested, but inasmuch as the office does not become vacant till \$30,000 are paid by Synod into the College Treasury; and inasmuch as the College building will not be ready for occupancy till another year, the committee have thought it expedient to defer a nomination, and ask to be continued."²²

IN THE SUMMER OF 1884, an invitation was extended to Thomas Alexander McCurdy, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Wooster, Ohio, to visit the Twin Cities and Macalester College, and to examine the conditions at the College prior to his being made a formal offer of the presidency.

McCurdy was a graduate of Washington and Jefferson University and of Western Theological Seminary. Before his arrival in Wooster, he was pastor of Presbyterian Church in Steubenville, Ohio. While in

Wooster he became closely identified with the College of Wooster, serving as a member of its Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, and he had taught there on occasion. He later wrote:

"Casual conversations were held with trustees and others in relation to the project, but I could not find anything in the whole situation which appealed to my ambition or to my sense of duty; and therefore I felt myself unwilling to become responsible in any sense for the enterprise. "The College Building was not suited for the purposes for which it had been erected. It stood on a Prairie quite remote from any human habitation. It had no convenient means of access. It had no attractions or inducements, such as a church, a school, a market, a post office, a railway station, a telegraph or telephone service. It was simply an oblong building of brick surrounded by cornstalks and gophers. Its classrooms were without desks; its dining hall was without tables; and its dormitories were without beds — absolutely forlorn in its destitution, and without visible means wherewith to remedy the impoverished condition. It was a college without a President, without an endowment, without a student, and seemingly without a future. I felt that the tender of its Presidency would mean, 'Take nothing and make something out of it.' Indeed the opening of Macalester College would mean a *creation*."²³

THE BOARD met on August 26 and unanimously voted to elect McCurdy as president. The following two days he met with their committee, John C. Whitney, Alexander Ramsey, and Thomas Cochran. Throughout the interviews both with the individual trustees and the committee, McCurdy was impressed with their sincerity. He recalled "their sincere and devout interest in the necessity and mission of the college" and the fact that they might be "prompted by other than disinterested motives in seeking the greatest good of the Presbyterian Church in the Northwest, and in the most certain way, was not to be entertained."²⁴

In his own mind he battled between the impressions made upon him by the trustees and the fact that "there was no reason why I should leave a church where all were happy,

and where I had for myself and family advantages which were agreeable and desirable."²⁵

He returned to Wooster without having given his answer. On September 13 he wrote to the committee that he would accept the offer upon several conditions: that an endowment of \$100,000 be secured within six months of his acceptance of the offer and that he be expected to work with the Board of Trustees no more than six months in helping to raise this endowment; that a fiscal secretary be employed to help raise the endowment; that after the six-month period he would devote himself solely to the work of securing a faculty and student body, forming the curriculum, and doing such other work as necessary to enable the College to open in September of 1885; and that the first faculty consist of no less than four permanent professors, one each in Psychology, Languages, Natural Science, and Mathematics and Astronomy.²⁶

The Board of Trustees accepted these conditions, except that the six-month period in the first condition was changed to "a reasonable time."

McCurdy arrived in Minnesota on November 14, and began his work. Almost immediately he learned that his job was going to be more difficult than he had imagined. His canvass of the Synod's churches provided the funds for furnishing the College building and gave him leads for students, but raising an endowment was much more difficult. There were strong prejudices against Macalester, many of them longstanding and some much more recent. While the members of the Board "merited the unqualified sympathy, helpfulness, and confidence of all to whom disinterested services to worthy interests have meaning," and while they contributed to the limits of their ability, McCurdy found that "an enthusiastic interest in Macalester College had no existence outside the Board of Trustees."²⁷

WITH THE DARK SHADOW of failure hovering over the opening of the College, McCurdy became even more determined that Macalester should succeed, whatever his personal cost might be. It was not a matter of struggling to keep something it already had, but of struggling to gain something worth keeping. The canvass of the churches continued, a fiscal secretary was

hired, and the Board of Trustees enlarged their work in the effort to open Macalester as a college. Throughout the spring and summer of 1885 the work continued.

At last, on Wednesday, September 16, the day finally arrived which Edward Duffield Neill had dreamed of for more than thirty years and for which the members of the Board of Trustees, President McCurdy, and other dedicated friends of Macalester College had worked diligently for so long. Following prayer, scripture reading, and an anthem sung by the Westminster Presbyterian Church choir, Neill delivered the principal address of the day: "Thoughts on the American College." Following a luncheon served by women from the Presbyterian churches in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Dr. McCurdy spoke on the purposes and character of the College. Other brief remarks also were made by distinguished members of the audience.

On the platform during the exercises were seated the members of the first faculty: William R. Kirkwood, professor of Mental Science and Logic; Nathaniel S. McFetridge, professor of Greek and Anglo-Saxon; Charles Forbes, professor of Natural Sciences; Francis B. Pearson, professor of Latin, and Edward Duffield Neill, professor of English Literature and Political Economy. Dr. McCurdy taught the courses in Biblical Instruction and Moral Science. In the audience were thirty-six students, twenty-nine enrolled in the preparatory department and seven in the first freshman class. During the next four years three additional men were added to that class, making a total of ten who were graduated in 1889 at the first commencement.

FOLLOWING THE REMARKS, "the members of the Faculty were each introduced; assignments of classwork were made; and then Macalester College took her place among the Colleges of the Northwest."²⁸

The College opened debt-free, but by 1891 the total indebtedness had risen to more than \$125,000. Internal strife added to the problems faced by Macalester. Dr. McCurdy resigned in 1890 and was succeeded by the Rev. David James Burrell and later by the Rev. Adam Weir Ringland. Neill died in September, 1893, just three days after Macalester opened its doors for the first time to female students, a policy

he had strongly opposed.²⁹

As the century neared its end, the future of Macalester College was bleak. But the leadership provided by James Wallace, who became acting president in 1894 and presi-

dent in 1900, together with the dedication of the faculty, students, and friends, enabled Macalester to weather the crises and grow to become the outstanding liberal arts college it is today.

Footnotes

1. Neill, Edward Duffield. *Historical notes on the ancestry and descendants of Henry Neill, M.D.* St. Paul: 1886, Page 23.
2. *Ibid.*, Page 14.
3. Neill to Kent, October 1848. Quoted in Neill, *Historical notes*. Page 14-15.
4. *The Minnesota Pioneer*, Vol. 3, Number 52. April 15, 1852, Page 2.
5. Seymour, Ephraim S. *Sketches of Minnesota, the New England of the West*. New York: 1850, Pages 99-100.
6. Neill, *Historical notes*, Page 15. Although Neill quotes it, the reports which appear in the December 5, 1849, issue of the *Minnesota Pioneer* and the December 8, 1849, issue of the *Minnesota Chronicle and Register* do not include the quotation. The schools were to be located, respectively, near Third and St. Peter, on Jackson Street, and in the Methodist Church on Market Street.
7. "Chapter XIV. An Act to incorporate the Baldwin School, in the City of St. Paul." *Session Laws of the Territory of Minnesota, passed by the Legislative Assembly at the session commencing Wednesday, January 5, 1853*. St. Paul: 1853, Pages 44-46.
8. "Chapter LVIII. An Act to incorporate the Board of Trustees of the College of St. Paul." *Session Laws of the Territory of Minnesota passed by the Legislative Assembly, at the seventh session, commencing Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1856*. St. Paul: 1856, Page 94.
9. *Cross and Crown*. Vol. 1, number 1. July, 1872; Page 2.
10. Baldwin to Neill, January 17, 1865: Neill papers, Minnesota Historical Society.
11. Baldwin to Neill, January 29, 1865: Neill papers; *Cross and Crown*, Pages 2-3.
12. John Mattocks to Neill, February 13, 1864: Neill papers; "Chapter LXXXVI. An Act to amend an act entitled 'an act to incorporate the Baldwin School . . .'" *General and special laws of the State of Minnesota, passed during the sixth session of the State Legislature . . .* St. Paul: 1864, Pages 354-355.
13. Jesus College. *Announcement for 1872*. St. Anthony (?): 1872, Page 2.
14. Macalester to Neill, June 4, 1873: Neill papers.
15. *Minutes of the Synod of Minnesota, in session . . . 1870*. St. Paul: 1870, Page 15; *Minutes of the Synod of Minnesota, in session . . . 1878*. Minneapolis: 1878, Page 244.
16. *Minutes of the Synod of Minnesota, in session . . . 1879*. Minneapolis: 1879, Pages 270-271. Emphasis added. In 1874 Neill had resigned as a member of the Presbyterian Church in order to join the Calvary Reformed Episcopal Church, a fact which did not improve relations between his proposed college and the Presbyterians in the state. He served as rector of Calvary and also of the Christ Reformed Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. In 1890 he returned to the Presbyterian Church.
17. *Minutes of the Synod of Minnesota, in session . . . 1880*. Minneapolis: 1880, Pages 305-306.
18. In reply to James Wallace's question regarding the original gift of the forty acres, Robert P. Lewis said: "This forty acres had been deeded to the college and the first building was going up before I was connected with the Board of Trustees. I do not know who made the suggestion . . . I have no doubt in my mind that Mr. Cochran made the suggestion, but Captain Whitney and Judge Vanderburg [*sic*] were broadminded enough to make a suggestion of that kind. They were all interested in the college, and of course, all were interested in selling the other hundred and twenty acres." (Lewis to Wallace, November 29, 1922: Wallace papers, Macalester College Archives).
19. Neill to W. W. McNair, January 22, 1882: Neill papers.
20. *Minutes of the Synod of Minnesota, in session . . . 1881*. Minneapolis: 1881, Page 345.
21. Document signed by Neill as secretary of the committee, April 18, 1883: Neill papers.
22. *Minutes of the Synod of Minnesota, in session . . . 1883*. Minneapolis: 1883, Page 432.
23. McCurdy, Thos. A. *The Formative period of Macalester College*. Typed manuscript, written about 1910, in the Macalester College Library. Pages 4-5.
24. *Ibid.*, Pages 5, 6.
25. *Ibid.*, Page 8.
26. McCurdy to Whitney, Ramsey, and Cochran, September 13, 1884. Quoted in McCurdy, *The Formative period*, Pages 8-10.
27. McCurdy, *op. cit.*, Page 13.
28. *Ibid.*, Page 16.
29. The theory has been put forth on a number of occasions that Neill was opposed to the education of women. His objection with regard to coeducation at Macalester, however, was not that he objected to their education, but rather that by opening the doors of Macalester to women, the Trustees would be breaking faith with the donors who had given money for a men's college.



THE GIBBS HOUSE

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

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.

Headquarters of the Ramsey County and Saint Paul Historical Society are located in the Old Federal Courts Building in downtown St. Paul, an historic building of neo-Romanesque architecture which the Society, with other groups, fought to save from demolition. The Society also maintains a museum office in the basement of the schoolhouse on the Gibbs Farm property. The Society is active in identification of historic sites in the city and county, and conducts an educational program which includes the teaching and demonstration of old arts and crafts. It is one of the few county historical societies in the country to engage in an extensive publishing program in local history.