

RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**  
*A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society*

CELEBRATING  
**RAMSEY COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S**

**65th Anniversary**

**Fall 2014**

Volume 49, Number 3

*An Adventure in Historical Research:*

*In Search of Ethel Stewart*

*Steven C. Trimble, page 3*



*The Gibbs farmhouse about 1961 at the Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakota Life in Falcon Heights, Minn. The original portion of this building that was the home of Jane and Heman Gibbs for more than fifty years dates from 1854. Remarkably well preserved, the farmhouse is on the National Register of Historic Places and plays a central role in telling the story of pioneer life in Ramsey County and Jane's relationship with the Dakota Indians of the area. Photo courtesy of the Ramsey County Historical Society.*

## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

### *President*

Chad Roberts

### *Founding Editor (1964–2006)*

Virginia Brainard Kunz

### *Editor*

John M. Lindley

## RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### *BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

William Frels

### *Chair*

Cheryl Dickson

### *First Vice Chair*

Elizabeth M. Kiernat

### *Second Vice Chair*

Julie Brady

### *Secretary*

Carolyn J. Brusseau

### *Treasurer*

Thomas H. Boyd, Anne Cowie, Jo Anne Driscoll,

Thomas Fabel, John Guthmann,

Richard B. Heydinger, Jr., John Holman,

Kenneth H. Johnson, David Kristal,

Carl Kuhrmeyer, Father Kevin M. McDonough,

Nancy W. McKillips, Susan McNeely,

James Miller, Robert Muschewske,

Jeffrey Slack, Ralph Thrane, Susan Vento,

Jerry Woefel.

### *EDITORIAL BOARD*

Anne Cowie, *chair*, James B. Bell,

Thomas H. Boyd, John Diers, William Frels,

Douglas Heidenreich, James Miller,

John Milton, Laurie M. Murphy,

Paul D. Nelson, Richard H. Nicholson,

Jay Pfaender, David Riehle, Chad Roberts,

Steve Trimble, Mary Lethert Wingerd.

### *HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD*

William Fallon, William Finney, George

Latimer, Joseph S. Micallef, Marvin J. Pertzik,

James Reagan.

### *RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS*

Commissioner Jim McDonough, chair

Commissioner Toni Carter

Commissioner Blake Huffman

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire

Commissioner Rafael Ortega

Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt

Commissioner Janice Rettman

Julie Kleinschmidt, manager,

Ramsey County

*Ramsey County History* is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 2014, Ramsey County Historical Society. ISSN Number 0485-9758. **All rights reserved.**

**No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission from the publisher.** The Society

assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Fax 651-223-8539; e-mail address: info@rchs.com; web site address: www.rchs.com

# RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 49, Number 3

Fall 2014

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DECEMBER 20, 2007:

The Ramsey County Historical Society inspires current and future generations to learn from and value their history by engaging in a diverse program of presenting, publishing and preserving.

## C O N T E N T S

### 3 *An Adventure in Historical Research: In Search of Ethel Stewart*

*Steven C. Trimble*

### 8 *Growing Up in St. Paul*

*The Peripatetic RCHS in the Mid-1970s*

*Anne Cowie*

### 12 *Looking for Manuscripts:*

*Virginia Brainard Kunz and Ramsey County History*

*John M. Lindley*

### 17 *Safer and More Accessible:*

*The RCHS Archives and Collections Since 1994*

*Mollie Spillman*

### 22 *Expanding Our Understanding of the Past:*

*The Sod House and Dakota Kin at the Gibbs Museum*

*Priscilla Farnham*

*Publication of Ramsey County History is supported in part by a gift from Clara M. Claussen and Frieda H. Claussen in memory of Henry H. Cowie Jr. and by a contribution from the late Reuel D. Harmon*

## A Message from the Editorial Board

Nobody knows your own history the way you do. At RCHS, we are always advocating for families, businesses, and other groups to collect and write their own histories. This issue, we are taking our own advice! We have put pen to paper (well, digitally) and have brought together different perspectives from our history as an organization as part of celebrating the Society's 65th Anniversary. Steve Trimble writes about our founder, Ethel Stewart. John Lindley shares his views of Virginia Kunz, executive director and editor of this magazine for more than 40 years. Priscilla Farnham outlines the transformative change in interpretation at the Gibbs Museum that she initiated as executive director to include the 1995 archeological dig and the well-documented interaction between Jane Gibbs and the Dakota people. Mollie Spillman, our curator/archivist, outlines her story of preserving and sharing our heritage of artifacts. And I'm in there too, writing about my first job at RCHS, one of the first tenants in Landmark Center. So get inspired, and write your own histories! Your family, friends, and maybe even readers of this magazine (should you submit an article), will thank you.

*Anne Cowie,*  
Chair, Editorial Board

# *An Adventure in Historical Research*

## In Search of Ethel Stewart

*Steven C. Trimble*

The adventure began when I was asked to give a talk to the Ramsey County Historical Society's Ethel Stewart Society. I had no idea how the group got its name. It turns out that the namesake was the founder of the Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) and the person most responsible for saving the pioneer Gibbs Farm and preserving it as a museum. I asked for a little further information, but there was little to be had at the time. RCHS had just two photos of Ethel in its collections and they both showed her at an advanced age.

I decided to search for the story of this obviously important woman. I was interested in not only knowing what she accomplished, but also how her life experiences led her to an interest in local history. I started out using one of my favorite sources, the Library of Congress historic newspapers that are digitized and can be searched on-line. I went to the advanced search, put in Minnesota and entered her birth name, "Ethel Hall," in the keyword spot. Several pages from the *St. Paul Globe* and the *Minneapolis Journal* popped up that contained bits of information including short pieces about parties, church activities, or other events that Ethel had attended. A few were about what she was doing at St. Paul High School—today's Central High School.

I had assumed that she attended there, since it was the only secondary school at the time, but this finding provided some dates to check out. I went to Central High School to see what I could find, but their once well-kept historical records that I had previously used were gone. All I found of them in a dusty storeroom were fourteen empty file cabinets. No one there knew what had happened to Central High's important records that dated to its opening days.

### **On to the History Center**

Next I wanted to see if—hopefully—the high school had given its records to the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) instead of putting them in a dumpster.

At first I was not able to find anything. I put "St. Paul Central" into the search line of the MNHS online collections database. Nothing came up. Then, just to be sure, I only put in "Central High School." There were several schools by that name, but there was what I wanted to see—the Central High of St. Paul. Sometimes you have to put more than one key phrase into a search engine to find what you are looking for.

I'm not sure how much of the Central High records survived the trip to the archives at MNHS, but there was an almost full run of the school's literary magazine called *The World*. At the time that Ethel attended Central, there was no school newspaper, but the magazine included some information about activities and even "gossip" about students. It turns out the Ethel not only occasionally appeared in the pages of *The World*, but she was the personal editor of *The World* and wrote humorous short quips about happenings at the school for each issue. "Carl Ahlstrom has discovered a new country," she wrote. "He speaks of 'the coast of 'Whales'' and 'Who is it that visits Belle Butler in the hall near room 19 during the third period?'"

She contributed two lengthy pieces during her time there that, at least in my opinion, showed her early inclination toward history. One story was titled "Life to Live," a fictional tale of a bitter feud between two Dakota bands in Minnesota. As the story went, a small group of Indians fled, but it dwindled



*A young Ethel Hall peers over her three younger siblings, left to right, Avis, Edwin, and Ruth. Photo courtesy of Lynn Kloek.*

away until a young chief was left to wander alone and, on a bluff above a deep lake, he fearfully jumps to his death. I later found out that Ethel's interest in the Dakota may have come from their trail that went through her neighborhood and the documented friendship the Dakota had with the Gibbs family.

Her second piece in *The World* was an essay written for the school's 1898 graduation ceremonies. Ethel was one of thirty-two students placed on the school's "List of Honor" and she appears to have been among the top ten. All were invited to submit essays and a faculty panel selected eight works to be read at the commencement, including Ethel's "In Freedom's Cause." Her essay on America's struggle for independence showed the development of her historical thinking. She went beyond just stating facts, and offered up historical context and lessons. It was the only essay to be summarized in *The World*. Here are some of the highlights:

“The story of the struggle for liberty found many earnest listeners. . . . Foremost among these was the young nobleman, the Marquis de Lafayette,” Ethel began. The long struggle for right “was a period of darkness and doubt . . . but every such time has its light as well as its shadows. . . .” She concluded with the hope that “may this immense temple of Freedom ever stand a lesson to oppressors, an example to the oppressed and the sanctuary for the rights of mankind.”

The next stop on my search was the library at the Minnesota Historical Society, where I consulted the St. Paul City Directories and the online censuses to verify where the Hall and Stewart families lived at various times and to look at the MNHS photo files. I also found two printed sources in the catalog that turned out to be very helpful. One was simply titled “Interviews, ca. 1948–1960.” This file contained transcripts of interviews that Ethel had made with early pioneers of St. Anthony Park. They gave good background on that neighborhood, which was then on the edge of the city, first serviced by a railroad and later by the street-car system. It was a real plus to find that there was a lengthy piece from Ethel’s mother, Jennie Hall. She talked about the family’s early days in the community and explained some of the reason Ethel always appreciated nature:

Our little daughters would go down to meet their father and he would point out the birds’ nests, the name of the birds, the moon and the wild flowers, and they enjoyed all the little animals running about. . . . We very often had partridges scurrying around and skunks wandered up and down in our yard. It was a very pretty spot, right among the trees, and we had all the wild flowers there that could be found in Minnesota.

There was also a volume called *Remembrance of Things Past: The Reminiscences and Diary of Polly Caroline Bullard* that I thought might have some information on early St. Anthony Park. To my delight, I discovered that this author had written about her relationship with Ethel. Polly Bullard, who was about Ethel’s age, remembered that “the Halls were our first formal callers,” and “in fresh ‘dress up’ afternoon dresses, they



*Ethel Collingwood Hall in June 1918, her senior year in high school. Photo courtesy of Lynn Kloek.*

rang our front doorbell.” It was the beginning of what Bullard said was a “lifelong friendship with the Halls.” Polly had other friends, but they were all “less lasting than that I had with Ethel Hall.”

Polly Bullard also wrote about how neighbor Clarence Stewart would come to play a major role in Ethel’s life. There was a local group that walked to school and church together. “We didn’t lack for romance on the way, either,” she remembered. “In winter we expected to see Clarence pulling Ethel on his sled, along the park, and then up church hill. Wasn’t that the acme of devotion? There she sat, her warm hood tied under her chin. Red cheeks glowing round and plump, beaming and self-possessed.” Ethel would eventually marry her childhood sweetheart Clarence.

### **Mount Holyoke College**

Back to the Library of Congress digital newspapers. Another major find there were a few short items noting when Ethel Hall took the train to and from Mount Holyoke College. It was the first time that anyone at RCHS knew where she had gone to college. This was going to be a clue that needed to be followed. I sent an email to the Mount Holyoke Alumni Association and they did have a file on Ethel that included a photograph and other information. They sent me her

course list, which showed a rigorous curriculum that ranged from Bible study and history courses to Greek, Latin and German, chemistry, zoological studies, and advanced courses in literature.

Their school’s literary magazine was available online and it would add important information in the search for Ethel Stewart. She was part of *The Mount Holyoke* editorial staff starting in 1899 and served as the publication’s literary editor in 1901. One of her longer contributions was a June 1902 essay on William Cullen Bryant, an American poet, journalist, and editor. It focused on his boyhood home and lifetime writing retreat in Cummington, Massachusetts, which was located near the college. Ethel’s interest in and approach to preserving historic structures may have been inspired by her visit to this area landmark.

She described how “the whole lower floor has been left much as it was when Bryant spent his summers here,” and the rooms were furnished with old furniture, photographs, and “portraits of men and women long dead, and children now grown to middle age.” Ethel took special notice of a small item that she saw in a larger context. “Oddly enough among all this mahogany and walnut stands the old yellow pine cradle, low and hooded,” in which all of the Bryant babies “were joggled to sleep,” she stated. “It is in fact the oldest link in the chain which binds the elusive past to the present.”

Ethel filled out questionnaires for the Mount Holyoke Alumni Association in 1924 and 1937, and they provided many insights into her life. One of them said that she spent three years teaching at Hancock School before marrying Clarence Stewart. Here was something else that had never been known. Unfortunately it led nowhere as the St. Paul school had no record of her work there. Other items revealed some of her social affiliations, which included the St. Paul College Club and the Parent Teachers Association. Under special hobbies, she inserted “nature and the woods” and “interior decorating.” In the 1920s Ethel was a substitute teacher in the high school and elementary schools in the Nashwauk and Hibbing school districts during the years her family lived on the Iron Range.

Even though Ethel wrote “administered the household” as a main activity in the 1937 Mount Holyoke questionnaire, she had also been busy in civic affairs in northern Minnesota. She had engaged in “constant substitute teaching” in addition to tending to family needs. Ethel was very involved in community matters and served as president of the Hibbing Women’s Club and president of the Minnesota branch of the Mount Holyoke Alumnae Association. While she modestly wrote that her leisure time activities included “informal historical research,” she planned and directed a major effort to design and print a historical map of the Minnesota Arrowhead Region.

Church records are sometimes very helpful in a historical search. In the country’s early eras, they are often one of the few ways to trace information about ordinary families. I knew that Ethel had been a member of the St. Anthony Park Congregational Church, which had been founded in 1886, the same year that she and her mother arrived in St. Paul. Located today at 2129 Commonwealth, it is now known as the St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ. I set up a visit. The institution had just had a history celebration; so their records had been sorted and a few of the displays were still in one of the rooms.

It was there I found a publication that showed Ethel’s leadership in the church’s Golden Jubilee celebration in May 1936. It was a booklet titled *Followers of the Trail: A Pageant of Early Minnesota*. While she is not listed as the author, it is clear that Ethel was deeply involved in its research and writing and in fact, she and her mother were listed among those who held the copyright. As part of the celebration, Ethel organized a march that the booklet called “Pilgrimage Over the Indian Trail.” A group met at the old Gibbs Farmstead then walked along the old Dakota trail to the old church site at Raymond and Wheeler, while Ethel pointed out “places of historic interest along the route.” The anniversary also included the performance of a pageant with almost a hundred participants. In one scene Mr. and Mrs. Hall and their daughters along with Abbie Gibbs and



*The Stewart family camping out somewhere near Hibbing, Minnesota. Ethel is seated to the right of daughter, Jean. Smoke from the fire obscures the others, who are likely daughter, Margaret, and husband, Clarence. Photo courtesy of Lynn Kloek.*

her father, Heman, entered down an aisle during the singing of a hymn.

### **Hitting the Jackpot**

Sometimes people think that official archives have all the photos and information that can be found, but contacting descendants can also work wonders. I had already found the date of Ethel’s death in the MNHS death index, so I could find her newspaper obituary. The obituary provided the names of her surviving children, so I then checked their obituaries. I now had the names of Ethel’s grandchildren and I had to search for them. In this day of unlisted cell phone numbers, I was happy to see that the name “Lynn Kloek” was in the phone book. I cold-called her and hoped she would be glad that someone was interested in her grandmother.

To my delight, she was eager to help and came down to the offices of the Ramsey County Historical Society in Landmark Center with a box filled with items about Ethel Hall Stewart.

Lynn Kloek’s material relating to Ethel included more than a dozen photographs. They ranged from Ethel as a small child to her high school graduation portrait to several photos of her family to a few photos that were taken in her later years. Lynn graciously allowed RCHS to copy all these photos and add them to the Society’s archives. There were now enough images to nicely illustrate an article in *Ramsey County History*, which appeared in the Fall 2012 issue. It provides a much fuller story of Ethel Stewart’s life.

In addition to the photos Lynn shared with me, her box of records held a number



*Even when her children were adults, Ethel, far right, enjoyed driving in the country. Here she is with, left to right, Margaret, Jean, and Thain. Photo courtesy of Lynn Kloek.*

of newspaper clippings including a long one on Ethel's daughter Jean Curtis, three history essays from her student years, a formal invitation to the wedding of Ethel Hall and Clarence Stewart, and a few other items, most of which provided new information. Now that I knew the date of their marriage, a look through the microfilm copy of the back issues of the *Pioneer Press* revealed a sizeable article about their wedding, which reported that the newlyweds would be moving to Seattle. Unfortunately, there was no photo in the newspaper.

The three high-school papers in the box were part of sponsored contests on Ramsey County history and featured Ethel Stewart. Their authors had done some good primary research. All of them had interviewed Ethel's daughter Jean, who was then living in the old family home at 2151 Commonwealth. I recently visited the house, thanks to the kind invitation of its current owner. It still looks much as it did a century ago, with a small sun room added to the back. I knew that Ethel had piled limestone retaining walls in the back yard to allow for a wild flower garden. I was surprised, but pleased, to hear that the perennials still come up every spring.

Jean told the high school writers that her mother had taught for a short time in Cummington in the early 1900s. She told them that Ethel left the college before her senior year to take care of her ailing father in St. Anthony Park and that she completed her degree at the University of Minnesota, focusing on history classes. The interviewers also found out about Ethel's trips in the woods with the family, taking hours to watch the building of an ant hill and once, while riding in their car, she shouted "Stop! We have to look at that flower."

Two of the papers quoted small passages from Gary Hiebert, a local newspaper writer. Thankfully they included footnotes with the dates of his two columns, which had a great deal of additional information. "Many times she and I would get into my car and go search out some little point of history," he said of Ethel. "Those expeditions were adventures to her." He also recalled "the day she and I retraced old St. Anthony Avenue, establishing it as the St. Paul end of the Red River ox cart trails."



*The opening day at the Gibbs Farm Museum on October 2, 1954 featured a horse and buggy with passengers dressed in period costumes arriving at the Gibbs farmhouse. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.*

According to Hiebert, Ethel's preoccupation with local history came from a belief that "people who settled here deserved to be recognized." She loved to walk along segments of what was the old trail the Dakota took from the Mississippi River to Rice Lake. He was impressed with her persistence, research, and even use of technologies far earlier than most historians. "As long ago as 1936 she began taking interview recordings" from several pioneer residents of the area in order to document their stories, Hiebert wrote.

Once I read this statement, I then realized that the interviews of St. Anthony Park pioneers at the Minnesota History Center were not written from notes but were early examples of transcribed oral histories. "No single person in the county has more of its history in mind than Mrs. Stewart," the columnist continued. "What she hasn't committed to memory, is filed neatly—in tape recording and paper, in her home" and "her personal library was a gold mine of little odds and ends of St. Paul history."

### **Records at RCHS**

The next important step in my journey was finally going to the research room of the Ramsey County Historical Society, located in the lower level of the Landmark Center. It had the most important sources for Ethel's life and work starting in the 1940s.

They are contained in the St. Anthony Park Area Association records, the newsletters of RCHS, and in the folders of Gibbs family correspondence. Much of the information I found in these records dated had been gathered and preserved after the Stewart family had returned to their home on Commonwealth Avenue.

One of Ethel's most important contributions as a historian had its origins in 1942, when Abbie Gibbs Fischer, the daughter of Heman and Jane Gibbs, died and her husband, Rudolph, sold the twelve remaining Gibbs acres, including the family farmhouse that dated from 1854, to the University of Minnesota. Ethel wanted the historic farmhouse to become a museum, especially after she learned that the University planned to demolish it. A long series of communications between neighborhood organizations and the University on the fate of this local landmark then followed. While these negotiations were occurring, Ethel spearheaded the creation of the St. Anthony Park Historical Association (SAPAHA) on May 20, 1945. Around this time, the University said the group could have the Gibbs farmhouse, but it would have to be moved. Some of the members of the SAPAHA then found a piece of land near the State Fair Grounds that could be obtained and used for re-

locating the house, but Ethel and others fought to keep the farmhouse where it was on Gibbs land.

A crucial turn of events occurred when Lester LeVesconte, a grandson of the Gibbs family, became an ally of Ethel and her supporters when he learned about the situation. He lent financial support and sent out letters to the University and newspapers and a local attorney saying that the Gibbs land had been sold with the understanding that the family's farmhouse would be untouched. Ethel was also writing letters—many of them to LeVesconte—and talking at meetings. Although I was unable to find any pertinent files in the archives of the University of Minnesota relating the disposition of the Gibbs farmhouse, I was able to locate the minutes of the University's Board of Regents, which were available online. The minutes from meetings of the Regents at that time showed that the institution was considering several different options, including tearing down the farmhouse or moving it elsewhere or even a making a swap for other land.

### **Preserving the Gibbs Farm**

In her correspondence with LeVesconte, Ethel had suggested that he offer acreage that he owned that abutted other University property for the disputed land containing the Gibbs Farm. The back-and-forth discussions were difficult, but Ethel remained determined that the Gibbs farmhouse and the adjacent White Barn remain on their original site. Finally, in 1951, the University agreed to deed over a little more than one acre of land on which the farmhouse and barn stood, but it insisted that the University receive double the amount of land in return. Ethel and LeVesconte grudgingly decided that even though this swap was unfair, it was necessary to save the historic buildings.

At one point during these negotiations, Ethel went to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and appealed for its help in preserving the Gibbs farm, but she was told that SAPAHA could not receive funding because the organization was not incorporated and it was not a county-wide organization. Ethel then called an emergency meeting of the SAPAHA and on February 23, 1949, the



*Ethel Hall Stewart (1879–1959). Photo courtesy of the Ramsey County Historical Society.*

membership voted to incorporate and to change the name of their organization to the Ramsey County Historical Society. The county commissioners then awarded financial support to the newly established RCHS. This is an example of how research in historical records can change a person's perception of what happened long ago. Prior to that time, I had always assumed that the RCHS had been organized as part of the 1949 Minnesota Territorial Centennial effort to have every county create a historical society.

Ethel next set to work getting the farmhouse and landscape ready to become a historical museum. She was a successful fundraiser, appearing at meetings and appealing for financial help from many groups. Perhaps remembering the William Cullen Bryant house, she sought out appropriate period furnishings as well as any letters, diaries, or photos of the area. She even paid to have appeals for the donation of items of historical value that could be used in the Gibbs farmhouse published in the newspaper along with her personal phone number so that potential donors could contact her. Finally, on October 2, 1954, the Gibbs Farm Museum opened to the public with Ethel Stewart as its curator.

She continued to work on the restoration of Gibbs Farm and was active

in the other work of RCHS including board membership and serving as its official historian. By the mid-1950s, Ethel began to have heart problems that slowed her down but never stopped her from doing things. "I am very glad to report that our creator and historian, Mrs. C. H. Stewart is improving in health. She sends her best to you," a RCHS officer reported at the 1959 annual membership meeting. Unfortunately, the rally did not last and Ethel Stewart died later that year at the age of 78. Several people reported that she was still active until a week before she passed away and had just called Gary Hiebert to suggest that he write an article about the improvements that had been made at the museum. The records show that she was interred in Roselawn Cemetery. As a final part of this adventure, I went there to visit Ethel's grave and found the simple flat headstone. She was beside her husband and near other family members. Walking back to my car, I also noticed that a few steps away Polly Bullard was resting.

In the last year of her life, Ethel penned these few words in the RCHS member newsletter that summarized her ideas about the role historical organizations. Here is what the founder of what is now known as the Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakota Life had to say:

To be of real value, a county historical museum should not merely be a variation of many others . . . scattered all across the country. Instead it should make some significant contribution to the understanding of the changes of life, habits and people within its own area. It is hoped that such will be the case in the unique presentation of the evolution of a pioneer farm . . . in Ramsey County.

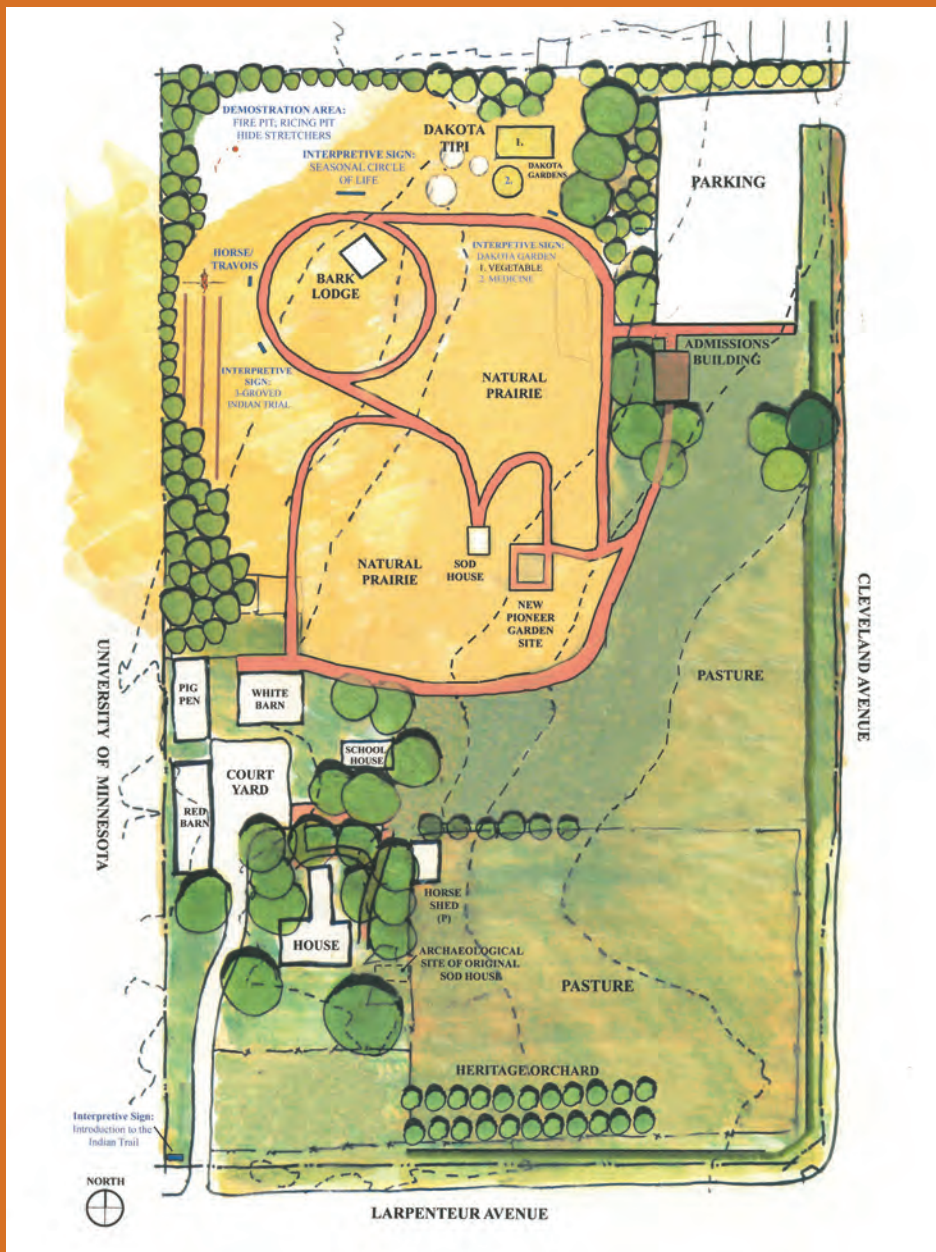
For this historian, Ethel Stewart's beliefs still guide today's Ramsey County Historical Society.

*Over the years, Steve Trimble has been a member of the Society's Editorial Board and a frequent contributor to this magazine. Readers who want an in-depth account of how Ethel Hall Stewart preserved the Gibbs Farm should consult Steve's article in the Fall 2012 issue of Ramsey County History.*

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society  
323 Landmark Center  
75 West Fifth Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Paul, MN  
Permit #3989

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*In the late 1990s, landscape architect John Koepke prepared this conceptual drawing of the Gibbs Museum. The drawing shows how a replica sod house could be positioned at the center of the prairie to function as the key element in the movement in both space and time from a Dakota interpretation in the northern portion of the museum to a pioneer interpretation in the southern part where the Gibbs farmhouse and barn already stood. Drawing courtesy of the Ramsey County Historical Society archives. For more on the Gibbs Museum, see page 22.*