

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
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Summer 2014

Volume 49, Number 2

A Grand Topographical
Feature:

The History of the Mississippi
River Boulevard

Donald L. Empson

—Page 11

*“Sewed, Baked Bread,
and Did a Little Housework Beside”:*

The Stork Family in St. Paul, 1914–1916

Rebecca A. Mavencamp, page 3



The unknown photographer who posed Grace and William Stork, St. Paul residents from 1903–1951, in such a stoic and traditional way missed their true characters as hardworking, but jovial, individuals. The couple raised five children, buried three of them, farmed the prairie, fought in the Civil War, and served lunch to local businessmen such as Frederick Spangenberg, F. Rudolph Knapheide, and H.B. Fuller in their home on Cleveland Avenue in St. Paul. Their story unfolds in this issue, told in their own words, during the last moments of peace before America was plunged into a world forever changed by the First World War. Photo courtesy of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 49, Number 2

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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.

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A Message from the Editorial Board

In this issue, we present several stories relating to the area near modern-day Highland Park. The Mississippi River Boulevard remains one of the more picturesque scenes in St. Paul. Donald Empson shares the story of its design by famous Chicago landscape architect Horace William Shaler Cleveland. Built in stages as land was acquired, the road had an early speed limit of 8 miles per hour and was subject to disputes between horses and new-fangled automobiles. Through careful research of family letters and diaries, Rebecca Mavencamp outlines the history of the Stork family, who lived on Cleveland Avenue South, which once lay beyond the city proper in Reserve Township. And Moira Harris traces the story of “Excelsior,” another Longfellow poem besides the famous “Song of Hiawatha,” which, in its day, inspired songs, a town, and even a Hamm’s beer label!

Anne Cowie,
Chair, Editorial Board

“Sewed, Baked Bread, and Did a Little Housework Beside”: The Stork Family in St. Paul, 1914–1916

Rebecca A. Mavencamp

Befriending the dead seems morose and awkward in the very least, often leaning toward a cause for concern and downright creepy at the extreme. Historians, however, have the unusual blessing to use the term “research,” which makes our pursuits into the past seem both understandable and acceptable to others. The field of History, then, becomes a conversation with people whose circumstances differ greatly from ours; yet, the more we discover, the more their story feels eerily familiar.

The Rockford Area Historical Society (RAHS) operates the Ames-Florida-Stork (AFS) House, a home finished in 1860 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. I serve as the executive director of RAHS and have become very familiar with the AFS House. For 20 years, RAHS interpreters used the original contents of the AFS House to relate the oral tradition of how settler families arrived and built the mills on the Crow River.

They also spoke of the Stork family, who purchased the home to save it for the community. Clinton Stork and his wife, Meda, purchased the AFS House in 1937 while still living in St. Paul and worked to preserve the structure for the next 40 years with the help of their children, Mary Lou and Grace, until the RAHS took over in 1987. Pictures of Florida and Stork family members hung on the walls of the house, but they stared

silently at visitors, offering little in the way of explanation.

That all changed through a gracious donation of family documents spanning the years 1842–1975. Letters and diaries from both the Florida and Stork families have provided the RAHS with an opportunity to encounter the scrawled signatures on book covers and mute photos on a very intimate basis.

One by one staff and volunteers opened boxes of these family documents to discover row upon row of carefully packed letters still in their envelopes, labeled diaries with daily entries, creative writing pieces, and a few trinkets. I sat down among all these records in an overwhelmed heap. I realized that at my fingertips lay four generations of experiences, emotions, answers, and blessed daily monotony following the Stork family’s path through the Civil War to Iowa, then to Pipestone, Jasper, St. Paul, and finally Rockford.

As I unfolded one script-filled page after another, the family sharpened with greater clarity—here was father Will (William Ellis, 1841–1938) playing the violin for former slaves and battling a fever to come home to his dying sister in 1866; the ground-breaking of the new “meadow home” outside of Luverne with his new wife, Grace Craig Stork (1846–1916); daughter Flossie (Florence Catherine; 1877–1959) marking her slate and sewing doll clothes on the farm twenty years later; son Clinton (Norman Clinton; 1883–1976) helping settle his parents’ business affairs after moving to St. Paul in 1903. All the while engagements, marriages, and deaths ran like rivers through narratives describing floods, droughts, sickness, and fire. They faced it head-on, clinging to each other, beginning life again and again, and finding joy in their music, books, art, and faith.



Clinton Stork, left, was the only son of William, right. Clinton worked for the H.B. Fuller Company most of his life, beginning shortly after completing business school in St. Paul. Grace, seated left, nurtured a very close relationship with her daughter, Florence, seated right. The two women speak highly of each other in their diaries, though routinely admitting perceived faults and shortcomings of their own. The family is on the front porch of the house in St. Paul where they lived, probably around 1914. The Storks turned the house into a duplex after Clinton married in 1921, allowing the family to continue to live together. Photo courtesy of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

Cost of our home No. 363 So. Cleveland 1904

Cost of Building Home on Cleveland in 1904	
Architect's Fee	75.00
Hardware - Hardware	71.84
Ch. W. Electric Equipment	55.50
H. P. Smith - Hardware	41.00
Walter Roberson - Blasting	331.00
Peter Benson - Mason work	513.75
Sheldon Carpenter - Siding 130'	790.43
Bardwell Roberson Co - Por. Mill work	821.51
Holt - Dahlby - Plumbing	708.12
Kimber - Carpenter work	351.00
J. P. Katten - House "	273.00
Paul Muller " "	166.53
Jack Johnson " "	67.50
Frank Stork " "	26.00
Walter Fairbanks " "	90.00
H. S. Stork " "	244.00
H. S. Stork	300.00
	5064.25
	3251.31

"The cost of our home No. 363 So. Cleveland 1904" wrote William Stork atop several pages of itemized expenses for the construction of their new dwelling in St. Paul. Among the companies used were: N.W. Electric Equipment, Bardwell Roberson Company for millwork, and Holt & Dahlby Plumbing. William also included payments to his son, a cousin, Fred Stork, and himself. Photo courtesy of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

A large, framed photograph of Will and Grace Stork stands on a bookshelf at the AFS House, taken by a photographer who championed many an unwavering and stoic pose. While he captured well the condition of fashion and style of that time, he failed to convey the humanity just underneath the surface. Those stories can only be found in a collection of smudged pencil marks and ink blots, between the periods of dutiful monotony and exclamation marks of giddy deviation. Having read those, I can no longer look at the grim portrait without imagining the faintest twitch in the corner of that stoic mouth. And *that* is what this is all about.

The St. Paul Storks

Monday, Sept[ember] 21 [1914] Generally fair, but some slight showers. Rec[ieve]d two dear letters from Nell, one for Flossie and one for me, also letter from Adaline. Flossie worked hard up-stairs all day, putting things in order for uncle Nor's visit. Will

*went down town this forenoon and brought us some soap—a bargain—and Clinton got some for us too—he is kind. My girlie read to me whenever she could.*¹

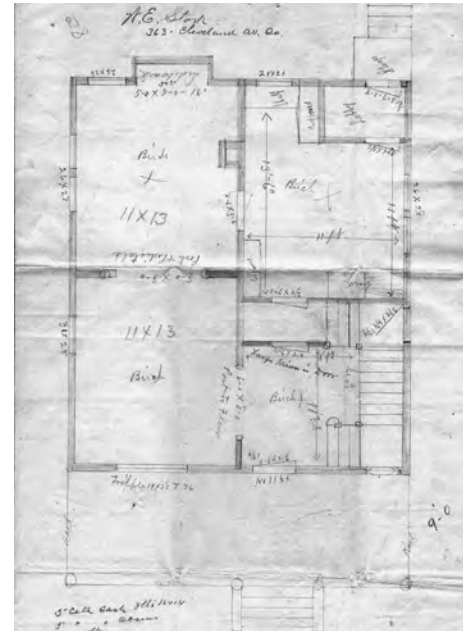
Though horses and gas lights still abounded in St. Paul in the early 1900s, electricity, streetcars, and automobiles vied for primacy. Railroad stations, coal plants, sanitariums and public baths still dotted the landscape, contrasting with sparkling department stores and upscale Parisian fashion displaying white collar wealth. Farms just outside the urban core provided fresh milk and eggs on a daily basis while land speculators dreamt of new housing developments and sidewalks growing in green fields.

St. Paul boasted a number of influential, wealthy residents in the early 1900s, not the least of these being James J. Hill, whom art student Wanda Gág noted in 1914, "could afford to have a personality."² Gág went on to record,

*I told him [Mr. Farrell] if I were entirely independent and would not have to consider our family or relations I'd be perfectly natural and not wear a mask as much as I do, and that I wore a mask now only to spare the feelings of my people—because of course people would think I were sort of off if I were perfectly natural—Nor would I blame them.*³

The boundaries Gág felt living in St. Paul as a middle-class student of the Art Institute during the prewar years were shared in that group of skilled, blue-collar and low- to mid-tier white-collar workers. These people tirelessly treaded water just below an economic threshold of independence and comfort, playing societal games within the confines of dignity and social mores, balancing rural and urban living, while attempting to break from one tradition-bound generation to the enlightened next. With a tenuous grasp on prosperity that compelled them to fight for reform lest they lose their social footing, this middle class propelled St. Paul through the war years, national prohibition, the suffrage movement, and onward into the Great Depression.

In the midst of the enormous technological and political change, arrived the Storks, a farming family moving to St. Paul from Jasper, Minnesota. They chose



William Stork also drew three pages of plans (front exterior and first and second floors) for the house plan prior to construction, a job overseen by architect Louis Lockwood, who billed \$75.00 for his work. This is the drawing for the first floor, which included the front and back entries, parlor, dining room, and kitchen. A stairway located to the right of the front entrance off the wide front porch led to the second floor. Photo courtesy of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

Material Home - Small Street in 1904 - Cleveland

June 22	Materials	19.15
July 20		2.70
Aug 5		1.25
Aug 22	Barred feet	1.30
Aug 26	Marble	25.00
Aug 29	Stone work	2.00
Aug 6	Paint	2.60
Aug 16	Roofing	1.10
Aug 20	Paint	6.50
Aug 25	Carpeting	7.50
Aug 21 - 25	Decorative	7.50
Aug 2	Painting	2.00
Aug 4	Decorative	2.00
Aug 6	Paint	5.00
Aug 21	Paint	1.20
Aug 6	Decorative	2.00
Aug 6	Decorative	2.00
Aug 6	Decorative	2.00
Aug 15	Decorative	1.20
Aug 22	Decorative	2.50
Aug 27	Decorative	2.50
		18.206
Price 50.00		
		5064.25
		187.06
		5251.31
Price 50.00		
		5301.31

This is William's list of all the materials and their costs that went into the Stork's house. Although the cost of materials totaled only \$187.06, the total cost of the house was \$5,301.31 after the architect's fee, subcontractors' bills, and other labor expenses were included. Photo courtesy of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

to stay with family friend H.A. Muckle, on the corner of Cleveland and Randolph Avenues, for a year while investigating various business options and locating a site for their new home.⁴

Having enough capital in the bank to seek a significant land purchase near an expanding urban center while simultaneously educating his children in the arts and business, William Stork opted to continue farming, a trade he had spent his lifetime learning. By attempting to balance both rural and urban lifestyles, the family represents a vital hinge between these evolving eras. Personal financial records from 1914 indicate William's wife, Grace, sold as many as seven dozen eggs each week, in addition to their personal consumption, to customers of society including H.B. Fuller, W.T. Fuller, Miss Bannon, and Mr. James.⁵ The Stork diaries also note their meat, poultry, and fish consumption, the bushels of peaches and oranges purchased for preserving, as well as the number of gallons of milk they traded with neighbors.

By 1904, when William Stork filed a building application with the city for his property on the west side of Cleveland Avenue between Palace and Jefferson, he had decided to include such luxuries as hot water heat. He hired architect Louis Lockwood to design the home. Lockwood was well known for his work along Summit Avenue, plus a substantial list of other local construction projects.⁶ According to William's financial records, the most expensive component of the project proved to be the millwork. He hand drew a set of floor plans for the \$3,000 home before construction began and both sets of blueprints, as well as the written description by Lockwood, have survived.

The Storks occupied 363 South Cleveland Avenue for the first time in 1906. The 1910 U.S. Census reported that St. Paul had 214,744 residents, though the *St. Paul City Directory* boasts a population of 240,015 living in an area of 54.44 miles. Other city improvements during this time included the city's new Auditorium with seating for 8,000; YMCA fundraising for a new location; the Orpheum Theater; the Pavilion at Como Park; and a bridge at Snelling Avenue.

The Stork dwelling on Cleveland still



Rudolph Knapheide, seen here about 1900, lived at 481 South Cleveland Avenue and remained one of the more influential farmers in Reserve Township until his death. Entries in the diaries of Stork family members often mention spending time with Mr. and Mrs. Knapheide. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

stands, though it's no longer owned by the family. William Stork converted it to a duplex, adding the 361 South Cleveland address in 1921 to accommodate their son, Norman Clinton, and his new wife, Meda Dyson. Later owners shifted the identity of the home by changing the address to Jefferson Avenue. Other than the various building permits held at Ramsey County Historical Society and a few tiny paper squares pasted over the original structure on a plat map, little additional documentation about the house remains.

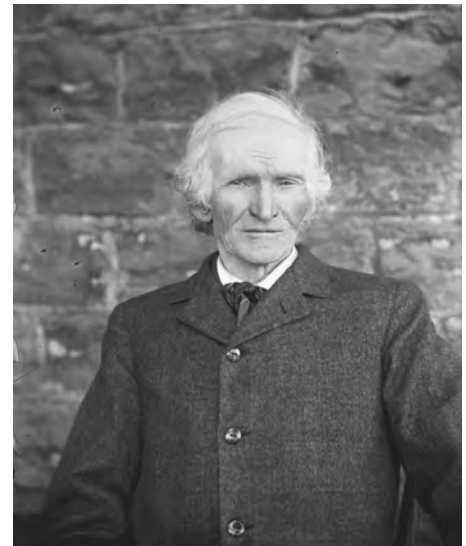
During the initial construction of this home, Norman Clinton enrolled at the Pioneer Business School, located in the Ryan Building, and later accepted a position at the H.B. Fuller Company. William's daughter, Florence, joined Wanda Gág and Harvey B. Fuller II as a student at the St. Paul Art Institute, graduating just prior to the opening shots of the First World War in August 1914.

The Stork's land was located in the western part of Reserve Township. Frederick Spangenberg owned the property between the Storks and the Mississippi River. Henry Muckle, who owned a

carriage manufacturing business on Cleveland Avenue in Merriam Park, held the land to the south of the Storks.

The township's name was derived from the fact that much of this land had been set aside, or reserved, for use by the army at Fort Snelling. In 1854 a land auction provided the opportunity for John Ayd, William Brimhall, William Davern, and F. Rudolph Knapheide to purchase land in Reserve Township for \$1.25 per acre.⁷

St. Paul completed annexation of the area in 1887, although only about 500 people lived there. By 1891, street car tracks were laid along West Seventh Street and Randolph Avenue, but the Panic of 1893 kept the population boom from hap-



Frederick Spangenberg Sr., seen here about 1900, built a home at 375 Mount Curve Boulevard in St. Paul that still stands today. He worked for Rudolph Knapheide, one of the original landowners of Reserve Township, and spent time with the Storks after they moved into the neighborhood. A disagreement about William Stork selling some of his land would strain their relationship, but bonds were mended after World War I. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

pening in full force until about fifteen years later. The Stork family came to know the Knapheide family, German immigrants who arrived a few years prior to the original sale, quite well. After her husband's death in 1905, Wilhelmina Knapheide routinely visited Grace Stork, sometimes bringing "little Dickie" with her to experience the afternoon's entertainment.⁸

In the 1860s, Rudolph Knapheide sold a portion of his land in Reserve Township to one of his farm employees, Frederick Spangenberg, a dairy farmer, who built a farmhouse using buff limestone from the nearby banks of the Mississippi River. The Spangenberg property, which at the time was well outside the city limits of St. Paul at 375 South Mount Curve Boulevard, formed a triangle between the Muckle and the Stork properties. Both Frederick Sr. and “Fred” Jr. maintained social ties with the Stork family, stopping by to call on them, as was often noted by Grace and Florence. Clinton wrote, for example, on June 26, 1914, that he and his father helped free the oil man’s tank from the Spangenberg’s lane, where it had lodged.

These congenial relations, however, would fray by the middle of World War I, as William Stork and the Knapheides separately formulated plans to sell portions of their land to eager developers. Eventually Frederick Spangenberg would file a lawsuit against his neighboring property owners in an attempt to block the sales and to preserve an agricultural area that in 1900 had boasted 26 dairy farms and provided a significant quantity of produce to residents of St. Paul. Ultimately, this action failed.

When the Storks built their home in 1906, they were a mere five years ahead of the housing boom that subsequently became today’s Randolph neighborhood and an area known as the “Knapheide Addition.”⁹ Palace Street, one of several east-west running streets located between Randolph and Jefferson avenues, cuts between the former Stork and Muckle properties. Frederick Spangenberg did manage, however, to save his own farm from urban encroachment and the house still stands today on Mount Curve Boulevard.

Family Life . . . as Usual

Florence Catherine, who received her first brown leather diary from Will and Grace in 1886, brings an emotional connection to the basic life events more clinically cataloged by her younger brother, Norman Clinton. She affectionately calls him by a variety of nicknames including N.C., Clin, or Clinty, and rises early each



Harvey B. Fuller, center with the bowler hat, owned the H.B. Fuller Company of St. Paul. He is seen here with his employees in about 1910. They specialized in manufacturing wheat pastes and glues, as well as wall paper cleaner. Seated to the left of Fuller is Clinton Stork, who managed the financial transactions for the company until his retirement in 1951. The men are seated on a new scaffolding system developed by Fuller shortly before World War I began. During the war, the Fuller Company had to suspend production of its pastes and glues due to a wheat shortage. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

morning to prepare a hot breakfast for her family. She then bids Clinton a good day as he heads out the door to his world of financial transactions for the H.B. Fuller Company. Both she and her mother rejoice when Clinton’s schedule allows him to dine with the family in the evening, though often they find themselves out and about together.

Wed[nesday], Jan[uary] 28 [1914] 30° above, but a windy, rainy day. It was so dark that we had the lights turned on in the modeling class [at the Art Institute]. Illustration this afternoon—two poses—“Oxenham” and “Salvation Yes.” Tonight the rain slackened and we all went to hear Helen Keller and Mrs. Macy at the auditorium—Clinton’s treat. It was very interesting. But oh, how it rained before we got home! I hope mamma will feel no ill effects. The walking is very slippery. Hunted Miss Larson up this noon. She is sick with grippe.¹⁰

By contrast, Clinton’s daily notes rarely deviate from a self-prescribed format that begins by relating the temperature. He notes his transportation to work,

vacillating between the “auto” and the “[street]car,” while unflinching noting he “went to work as usual.” At the age of 31, he had become the epitome of reliability and predictability.

32 a[bove] Wednesday 28 [1914] Rain most of day. Went to work as usual. Came home to supper & stopped to clean Mrs. Fuller’s kerosene stove. Then we all went down to hear Helen Keller lecture at the Auditorium. Got home at 11:00.¹¹

William served in the latter part of the Civil War and early years of Reconstruction. While he experienced no major military action, he had his fair share of challenges guarding water supplies, transporting prisoners, and overseeing Confederate officers. Those diaries, as well as nearly thirty others, are available online at Minnesota Reflections by searching the Rockford Area Historical Society collection.

Grace Craig had been born in Windsor, New York on October 25, 1846. She and William Ellis Stork were married on May 18, 1871 in Lime Springs, Iowa. Both

the Stork and Craig families moved west before the Civil War to claim their share of the new homestead land, choosing southern Minnesota and northern Iowa to put down roots.

Tuesday, Jan[uary] 20, 1914 Light snow storm continued all day but weather not cold. Spent most of forenoon preparing apples for baking and for dumplings, and getting potatoes ready for the evening dinner. Mended a little. Will went down town in afternoon, and bro[ugh]t me some new blank books and some cocoanut [sic]. Flossie and Clinton came home together to-night; she went after school to the dentist's to have her tooth filled. Read to the children in evening, Flo wrote to Edith. Clinton brought us all to Helen Keller's lecture to-night he is just the kindest & best boy in the world.¹²

Prior to relocating to St. Paul, Grace and William had three other children: Ethel (born February 18, 1872), Ethelyn Ruth (born June 1, 1875), and Stella (born December 25, 1881). Tragedy befell them in their prairie home, eight miles outside of Luverne, Minnesota. In 1884, William found himself alone with nine-month-old Clinton as he nursed his family, who suffered from scarlet fever and whooping cough. After the other children died and Grace and Florence recovered, the four remaining family members moved farther west to Pipestone, Minnesota. Here, William accepted a position with Cargill. When later on a disagreement with the sales representative cost William his job, he moved his family to a farm two miles outside of Jasper, where they stayed until moving to St. Paul.

Wherever they lived, Florence noted her father would spend the day behind the plow and horses only to come in and offer to wash the kitchen floor or churn butter since "Mamma looked tired." In a surprising overturn of male superiority, he further pushed conventional gender boundaries by insisting Grace vote in local elections as soon as the law allowed—against her own wishes to stay home. William also sent Florence to stenography school, allowed her to work in Pipestone and Chicago, and eventually enrolled her at the Art Institute.

Both Clinton and Florence received daily time off to pursue their interests in



Florence Stork completed this portrait of Wanda Gág as a class assignment in 1914 at the Art Institute of St. Paul. Prior to sitting for the class as a model, Wanda wrote in her diary on November 30, "I jumped into the Japanese gown, stuck some chopsticks into my hair, painted my lips and eyebrows to make me look more Japanesy, and sketched myself, letting my hands do what they had been yearning to do from the time I set eyes on that dream of a kimono with its tempting, adorable folds." Photo courtesy of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

music, foreign languages, and art. Grace, too, entered a number of creative writing contests, sometimes earning stipends of money for her song lyrics or advertising jingles. She also composed a political rally song telling the Republicans to stand down and make way for the reform of Populist and Progressive parties. Here's Florence's account of the first day of 1914 in St. Paul:

January 1, 1914 Our first stormy day of the winter—the ground is quite white. Woke at five o'clock so hadn't much sleep last night. Painted Mabel's picture. We had a pleasant day together; found papa had picked the chickens while we were gone yesterday and mamma had dressed them for me last night. Received card from Edith Sykes, wrote letter to Clara Drake, Clin[ton] went to a New Year's reception at the Y[oung]W[omen's]C[hristian] A[ssociation] building to-night. I churned. 5 lbs 7 oz. Mamma read from uncle Joe's book. I love to hear her read.¹³

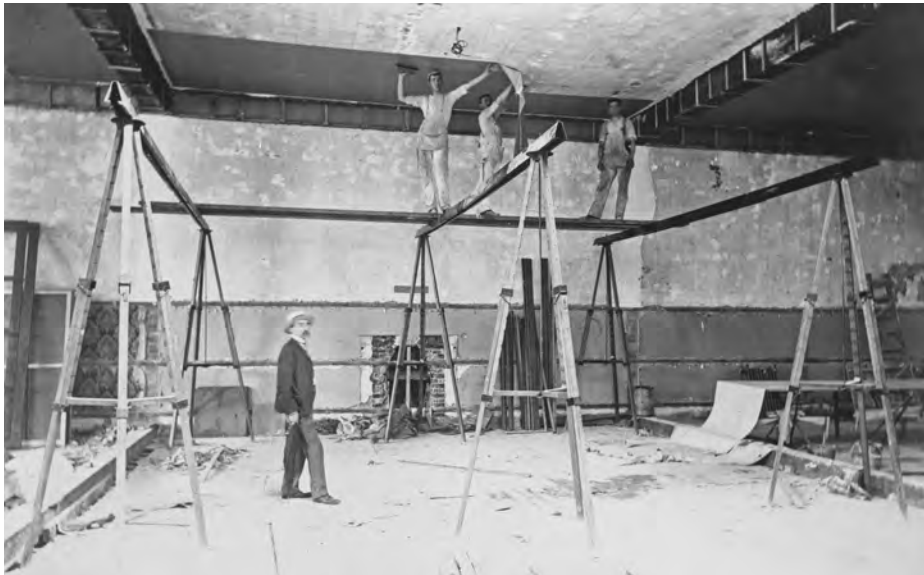
Even with a full-time job and his U.S. Draft Registration card in hand (after June 5, 1917 following the U.S. entrance to World War I), "Clinty" reigned supreme as the beloved baby of the family, nine years the junior to Florence. She often notes as a ten-year-old that she "looked after brother" or "watched Clinty." In later years, she dotes on him as a "dear brother" and greatly misses him when work or social activities take him away for meals and evenings. Similarly, Grace worries about "her boy" out in the cold and rejoices in her diary when he remains home for a singing practice.

Wednesday, June 10 [1914] Beautiful day after the rain. All prepared early to go to the car first, then the poor fellow had to go back with the team. Heard a fine address by McDonald, editor of Toronto Globe. Mrs. F[erris] & I came home alone, while Flo[rence] went to the doctors for my medicine, & to call for Lloyd's bill book—she is so kind! Letter from Joe, from L[ime] S[prings]—to my surprise. Hard rain in the late afternoon & evening, so Mrs. Ferris could not go home. Clinton gave us music in evening—a dear boy! Will was so kind too, about taking us to the car. He and Flo surprised us with our first strawberries for our late dinner today.¹⁴

Life Gets "Fuller" with Art and Illness

When the Storks moved to St. Paul at the turn of the century, they echoed the decision of many Americans who relocated to more densely populated, urban areas thereby dropping the farming population by half. Along with this migration of people to the cities between the end of the Civil War and the beginning of World War I, many individuals also shifted their occupation from farming to manufacturing. Clinton's employer, Harvey B. Fuller Sr., typified this change.

Fuller, age 42, and his wife of sixteen years, Ellen Kirk, had lived in St. Paul since 1887. The couple had several children, including Harvey Jr., who was close in age to Clinton. Harvey Sr. began manufacturing flour and water paste, growing a business that continues to thrive internationally today. Within ten years after



Harvey Fuller, who is seen here sanding on the floor in this undated photo, invented the scaffolding system that these workers are using to wallpaper the ceiling of a large room. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

he started his company, he had invented a scaffolding system for his plant workers and hired Clinton to maintain his financial records and collections route. Ads in local newspapers during this time tout the benefits of Fuller's wallpaper cleaner, as well as the original products.

As the Fuller Company expanded, so did the social and financial world of the Storks, though they never quite broke free of the upper middle class. In 1915, when both Harvey Jr. and Clinton were fully invested in the future of the company, Fuller incorporated his business, upgraded Clinton's company-owned Ford to a newer version, and made Clinton a partner in the company. Clinton mentions teaching Mr. Fuller how to drive the auto, with the questionable results of these lessons available in the newspaper the following day. The two men destroyed a fire hydrant and Clinton expressed his reluctance to giving further lessons.

Wednesday [February] 17 [1915] 18 a[bove] warm and s[outh] wind. Went to work as usual. We traded for a motor truck & a Ford run-about. I learned to drive the Ford this afternoon & brought it out here tonight. Father & Mary went to call on Harold & Ruth & Mary staid [sic] there tonight. Mrs. Durkins did our washing today. Got to bed at 10:15.¹⁵

Tuesday [sic] [April] 6 [1915] Fine. Went to work in the auto & stopped for Harvey. At

noon went home to dinner with Mr. Fuller (who drove the auto) At night started home with it, and H[arvey] B F[uller] was driving it. He got caught in the [street] car tracks, had an accident & smashed the car on a hydrant. No one was hurt, but it took us till 8 o'clock to get the machine towed in & supper eaten. Then I went out to C[hristian] E[ndeavor] business meeting where H[arvey] P. Jefferson was elected Pres[ident]. Got home at 10:30.¹⁶

The family enjoyed the use of the Ford for personal errands and outings, which allowed a flexibility of travel not available with the streetcars. Florence mentions the inconvenience of using the trolley occasionally, as well as the unreliability of the Ford tires, though she rarely complains.

The Storks and Fullers maintained a friendship for many years, during which time they shared a variety of personal events including preparing for the wedding of Harvey Jr. to Emma Dickerson in 1916 and driving the Storks to the rail station on the day of Grace's funeral. Harvey Jr. assumed the presidency of the Fuller Company in 1921, the year Clinton married Meda Dyson (1897–1986), expanded the company's product line and increased sales until Harvey passed the responsibility for leading the H.B. Fuller Company to Elmer Andersen twenty years later. Clinton retired to the AFS

House in Rockford in 1951, having maintained his image, in Andersen's words, as a "Dickensian bookkeeper with a green eyeshade and a standup desk" for nearly fifty years.¹⁷

Both Florence and Clinton were heavily involved in the Christian Endeavor, travelling from White Bear Lake to Minneapolis and even Faribault working to set up additional chapters, performing with choirs, attending conferences, and rallying young Christians of all denominations to step up for their beliefs. Often occurring in tandem with Temperance meetings and the suffrage movement, Clinton rose to the Executive Board at the District level and began attending State conferences. His male quartette performed for the soldiers at Fort Snelling, in mental hospitals, prisons, and most poignantly, at Grace's funeral.

Florence, though social, didn't aspire to leadership roles in the community. Instead, she made use of her artistic talents by enrolling at the Art Institute in her mid-thirties. She made friends with Wanda Gág and brushed shoulders with the other influential young people living in St. Paul. Florence consistently mentions making time in her day to "work a piece" whether as a gift, assignment, or pure pleasure. Some of these works survive at the Ames-Florida-Stork House in Rockford, where they are on display.

Florence's maternal Aunt Kate Craig had designs on her artistic skill at an early age as she wrote in a letter to Aunt Nell that Florence was destined to see Professorship as an adult, but voiced concern regarding her "weak eyes."

I feel very sorry for her—Flossy has a decided talent for drawing—I had hoped she might be educated to take a Professorship in that Department in some college, early in life but her eyes at present forbear that idea. I hope your children are all free from this infirmity.¹⁸

Despite this assessment of Florence at the age of seven, Aunt Kate remains an influential part of Florence's life, teaching her French and working with her artistic skills both in person and via postal mail. William sees the intelligence of his daughter outside of the art world as well, and supports her education in stenography.

Attending a boarding school in Pipestone in the late 1890s and later completing courses in Pernin Phonography by mail order, Florence often practiced her skills during church sermons, classroom lectures, or while Grace read aloud in the evening. Her social life, however, seems limited to visiting neighbors, the Christian Endeavor picnics, church meetings, or activities held at the school, such as the Twelfth Night Party. Florence, who never married, died in Minneapolis on May 28, 1959.

With roots as far back as Roman times, the Twelfth Night celebration strove to lighten the mood of mid-winter with dancing and feasting, culminating the season of All Hallows and beginning the calendar's ascent to spring. When Christianity declared December 25 as the birthday of Christ, the Twelfth Night celebrations focused on the Epiphany, or arrival of the Wise Men with gifts for the baby Jesus. While feasting and dancing still held center stage, new traditions, such as crowning a King for finding the hidden bean in the extravagant Twelfth Night cake and masquerade balls became increasingly popular.

The most popular form of celebration, the masquerade balls allowed the participants to indulge in the popular eighteenth century game of Twelfth Night Characters. This game dates back to Roman times and before, when society upturned itself and allowed masked "mummers" a night of revelry in the streets. St. Paul newspapers printed an account of the local event and its theme, chosen by the Art Institute staff each year, often including reviews of art submitted to the Minnesota State Art Society's Exhibition.

Tues[day] Jan[uary] 6 [1914]. At last a lovely, spring-like day. Mamma worked on my "costume" for to-night. Papa went down town to deposit his checks, and I found him on the car which I boarded for home to-night. I went down town this noon and bought an electric lamp for Clin[ton]. He and mamma came with me to the Twelfth Night party this evening, and we all enjoyed it. Thanks to Marion and mamma, I was all right. Used both of my grandmothers' shawls. Reached home about 12:50. Letter from Alma; one from aunt Mattie.



Clinton Stork was photographed by one of the St. Paul newspapers in 1916 while driving the Ford car, front left, provided to him by H.B. Fuller. At the time, the Fuller Company also owned the two delivery trucks also seen here in front of the company's plant on West Third Street (now Kellogg Boulevard). The tall spire belonging to the Defiel Block (today it's the location of the Xcel Energy Center) can be seen in the background of the photo. Clinton often noted in his diary having to make multiple tire changes in one day and spending time each week cleaning carbon from the engine of the Ford. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Wed[nesday] Jan[uary] 7 [1914] Warm. Letters from Emily and Mrs. Tayler. Worked on my portrait this forenoon and in life this afternoon. Had a poor position in the latter, coming in on Wednesday. Went home reasonably early, and am intending to have a good sleep to-night. N[orman] C[linton] has a cold, so declines an invitation to Miss Peyer's this evening.¹⁹

Of all the staff and students at the school, Florence mentions seeing Elizabeth Bonta most frequently. Miss Bonta served as the curator of the St. Paul School of Fine Arts and held such positions as vice president of the Artist Society of the St. Paul Institute, which was organized in 1913. She showed a quantity of her work in the city and developed a name for herself early on in the blossoming art world of St. Paul. She taught both Florence and Wanda Gág at the Institute with colleagues Lee Woodward Zeigler, Nathaniel-Pousette Dart, and Tyler McWhorter, all similarly known for their talents, exhibitions, and awards at a variety of state and national venues.²⁰

Event coverage in the local newspapers for both the school and a variety of exhib-

its may be found not only in the news sections, but also in society and opinion columns. The Minnesota art world began to gain national popularity as World War I reached its midpoint in 1916. When Bonta's mother fell ill and passed away in 1914, Florence and Grace both took time to assist her within their daily schedules.

Wed[nesday], Feb[ruary] 11 [1914] 23° below zero. Coldest day yet! Portrait and life. Made some cheese for Mrs. Bonta to-night, mamma sewed and did housework. I went to the store for butter. Mamma read to us tonight, and played for Clin[ton]. No mail today.

Thurs[day], Feb[ruary] 12. 20° below zero. Bright and pleasant, however, mamma finished my waist. Portrait. This afternoon worked at commercial²¹ down stairs. Miss Bonta's mother is very poorly, but Miss Bonta came down to the school for a little while. She helped me mend my violin picture which someone tore in the water, and selected the ones for the State Art Society. I "patched up" a few pictures; enjoyed Mr. McWhorter's good criticism; but most of the students staid away because it was Lincoln's Birthday. Went down



In 1914, students attending the St. Paul School of Art dressed in Robin Hood-themed costumes and celebrated January 6 at the Twelfth Night Party. Pictured in the group are Wanda Gág as Maid Marion with cape and wreath, Harvey Fuller II, and Florence Stork, who noted she used both of her grandmother's shawls to complete her costume. Photo by Brown's Photo Craft Company. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

with papa to the exercises at the Auditorium tonight, and enjoyed them. Received a letter from Clara Drake.

Fri[day], Feb[ruary] 13. Beautiful – 4° below – 16° above. Portrait, life, Mr. Zeigler's lecture. Very tired tonight; I'm glad to retire reasonably early. Both N[orman] C[inton] and myself are home tonight. Papa went down town today. He and mamma prepared chicken, hoping to give some to Mrs. Bonta, but it is too late. Mamma finished my waist. Miss Bannon came for eggs and made a call. The Hoffman girl borrowed 15 ¢. The postman failed to appear.²²

Grace's entries of the same time period tell a similar story, though with her characteristic touch of tenderness and gratitude.

Wednesday, Feb[ruary] 11 [1914] 23° below zero—a surprise to find it so cold, and it has been the coldest day of the winter. Sewed, baked bread and did a little housework beside. Flossie bought buttons for me to-day—she & Clinton both home to-night. Read many chapters in Pollyanna to-night, then played accompaniments for my boy for a little while. The postman did not come as far as our home to-day so we had no mail—a disappointment.

Thursday, Feb[ruary] 12 20° below zero this a.m. but the day has been bright & still. Spent most of the day sewing, finished our

waists—almost! Flossie brought home her violin picture to-night—it looks perfect to us. Saddened to hear that Mrs. Bonta is near death. Papa & Flossie went to the auditorium tonight to the Lincoln meeting—Clint[on] & I held the fort at home. Rec[eive]d pleasant letter from Lavina Anderson, and Flossie got one from Clara Drake.

Friday, Feb[ruary] 13 Beautiful day, only 4° below zero to begin— . . . mercury climbed to 16° above, & the day was still and bright. Will and I dressed a chicken for supper. Finished Flossie's waist. Long call from Miss Bannon. Flo and Clinton both home to supper, & both retired earlier than usual. Will went down town this afternoon & bought me some yeast cakes. Hoffman girl came to borrow 15 [cents]. Postman failed to appear to-day, which was quite a disappointment.²³

Gág's diary of her years at the Art Institute makes mention of many of the same people and situations as does Florence's. From her teenage perspective, Gág regarded Miss Bonta as a "dear," but received the criticism of Mr. Zeigler and the other instructors with a needful edge of approval toward a prospective career that Florence lacked, though both women noted the days when he commented on their works. Similarly, both entered their art in the State competition and reproduc-

tions of two of Florence's entries accompany this article.

Feb 28, Saturday Monday I showed Mr. Zeigler some of my sketches so he could choose the best (which is to be sent to the State Art Exhibit). He said, "you are just on the boarder-line now Miss Gág. You have it in you to become either a clever illustrator or a good draughtsman." He said what I needed was a lot of severe study, namely Antique. . . . I saw Mr. McWhorter the other day and he told me that he was expecting me to win the scholarship for Antique that year. But I can't, I can't—I'm not very good at Antique.²⁴

While Gág expresses an all-consuming relationship with her art studies which would win her a scholarship to study in New York, Florence, who is considerably older than the other students, views her Institute years as a period of enjoyable study to the betterment of a hobby. Unfortunately, she must complete her schooling within the confines of ever-increasing family obligations.

Monday, Feb[ruary] 16 [1914]. Snowy. Mrs. Kiefer got two quarts milk. Our model this morning was Etta Bergmeier. Mr. Zeigler brought me a piece of canvas, and I spent some time stretching it, so just got nicely started. News of death of Rowena Steel's brother. This afternoon we had a "terrible" watercolor study. Phyllis Saxby's choice—the skeleton-skull, a book and candle. Worked tonight at commercial. Mamma doesn't feel well. She sewed, however. We received Edna's memorial card.

Tuesday, Feb[ruary] 17 [1914]. Pleasant and warmer. Mrs. Bonta died this morning at 4:15 o'clock. Wrote note to Rowena Steel. Worked at portrait and watercolor. Went down to the reception afterward at Reljik's and saw the watercolor exhibit. Worked at illustration tonight. Rec[eive]d letter from Mr. Tho[mas] Larson. One from uncle Charlie. Mamma has been feeling badly, but is better tonight. Clinton cracked nuts for us. Fred Stork [a cousin] and Mr. Grandle were on the car when I came home. Papa sent out Ward's bill. He also found a bargain in cloth all by his lonely which will make good aprons—and brought us 9 yards at 3¢ per yard.²⁵

By the time the Minnesota State Art Exhibit occurred at the old Capitol, Grace's illness has already taken a visible

toll on the family. Beginning with general facial pain in 1913 that escalated with the growth of a tumor, Grace eventually lost her sight in 1915. She tried a variety of doctors, surgeries, and medicines, including cocaine washes, heroin, and aspirin, in an attempt to find a remedy. As her condition steadily declined, Florence lost all ability to leave her mother, becoming the primary caregiver. Grace attempts a front of bravery in her diary, though Florence and Clinton note their mother's declining health each day.

*Saturday, March 14 [1914] warm and pleasant. Flossie and papa took care of the meat, and spent all the forenoon at it—made the pickle & C. Mabel called in afternoon for her butter, & Will & Flo gave her a nice lot of meat. Clinton went home with her to take it. All of us went to the state art exhibit in evening—Flo's pictures were all accepted three of them she submitted, & one Mr. Zeigler sent (the skull.) Got very tired.*²⁶

While she could, however, Florence attended class and completed assignments. One of these is mentioned by Gág when she posed on April 10, 1914 for the sketch class as a Japanese girl, saying she was “slightly bending back with both hands clasped behind my head, with my weight resting almost entirely on one foot.” Despite the fatigue the pose induced, she “stuck it out till the end” and subsequently posed in seven additional manners for the students' sketch class, roughly 10 to 15 minutes each. Not having had enough of the costume, Wanda went home and continued to sketch herself six more times before returning to the classroom the following day.

This costume, described by Gág as a “bright red kimono with lovely white sprigs of flowers over it, and wide flowing sleeves,” had inspired her to “stick some chopsticks” in her hair and draw self-portraits the previous fall. The piece created by Florence for this school project still exists in the collections of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

Conclusion

The world of St. Paul outside the confines of the Storks' home continued its urban pace, trying to expand both physical and ideological boundaries as new



In 1906 the Fuller Company used these cute and attractively dressed children to advertise the company's wallpaper cleaner. Before the invention of vinyl wallpaper, uncoated wallpaper had to be dry cleaned using wallpaper dough, seen here in the bowl. Because coal-fired furnaces were used to heat homes and many still used kerosene or gas lamps for lighting, wall paper cleaning was a routine household chore. To dry clean uncoated wallpaper, the dough was rolled into a ball and then rolled across the wallpaper so that it would lift the accumulated soot from the surface. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

to give fair compensation for the worker's labor. Veterans groups, both Union and Confederate, continued to lobby for benefits that acknowledged their sacrifices or the losses suffered by the widows of those who had died in the war. By banding together in a way unknown before, they paved the way for the thousands of veterans who would return after the Great War's bloodshed.

As a Civil War veteran, William held a unique view on the affairs of World War I. He attended Grand Army of the Republic meetings regularly, collecting a healthy pile of convention ribbons, both local and national. At one time, these GAR encampments were a family affair, as Grace participated in the Ladies Aid and



While she studied at the Art Institute, the instructors chose several of Florence's works for entry into the Minnesota State Society's exhibition. This still life depicts doughnuts made by her mother, Grace, who passed away in 1916. According to Florence's diary, she couldn't bring herself to make the treat for the first year after her mother's death. Photo courtesy of the Rockford Area Historical Society.

Auxiliary events and the children slept in tents, but her declining health restricted her attendance. William often went alone. Solid and orthodox in his views of church and state, William enjoyed listening to lectures that reinforced his own beliefs, although this didn't detract from his interest in exploring the other side for the sake of knowledge.

Once settled in St. Paul, William spent many hours working the land to provide food for his family, even though he was well into his seventies. Even after the sale of their farm prior to their move to the city, the Storks maintained a large garden

as well as chickens, a couple of cows, and a horse. While Clinton received a livable income for his work chasing coins for purchases of pastes and glues that sometimes totaled \$20,000 from one customer, money could be saved by providing groceries off the land.²⁷

Calls made to friends often included a gift of butter, eggs, or milk. Excess of these products would be sold to supply Grace and Florence with pocket money. Notations of four to six dozen eggs being sold aren't rare and churning the butter was a daily ordeal very often done by Will. In return for the goods donated to friends, the Storks accepted apples, berries, and other homemade goods. Florence occasionally received a commission for a drawing or a request to paint a design on a drum or a can as a gift for a friend of the friend.

This teeter-totter of daily life during the dynamic and tumultuous years of 1914–1918 would gently evolve as the clash of European nations moved from the back pages of newspapers to the

front headlines. Liberty Gardens, the Red Cross, rationing, and military training at Fort Snelling became a reality by 1918, though truly more of an inconvenience than a life-changing event for the Storks. Here's a sample diary entry from Florence written after the U.S. had entered the war:

Sat[urday], Nov[ember] 10 [1917]. Lovely. This has been my baking day. I made an Indian pudding for papa's birthday, baked a war-time cake for the committee tomorrow, the rolls, bread and beans; so I was busy. Put the house to rights as well as I could. Two other sewer machines and a ditcher came out to work on the streets, and we are in a busy part of town. Clinton didn't come home to dinner, but went directly to the [rental] houses to take off the screens. After he got here he helped me wash the porch; I scrubbed with hot water and soap, he rinsed it off with the hose. The housekeeper at the Spangenberg's stopped to see about telephoning while I was working there.

Sun[day], Nov[ember] 11. Beautiful, and we rode up to the church. Papa washed the

dishes. There were 19 members of the committee present, and I was busy. Made coffee. N[orman] C[linton] went to Merriam Park C[hristian] E[ndeavor] and church, but I staid at home, as papa didn't care to go out to-night. We had oysters to-day in honor of his birthday.²⁸

In commemoration of the anniversary of World War I, the Rockford Area Historical Society intends to continue researching the lives of William, Grace, Florence, and Clinton in order to relate their experiences as a middle class family on the home front of St. Paul. Their untold story is one of strong relationships amid crises, persistence, and a determination to adapt their way of life in a changing world. At the very least, they will inform you. At their best, they will inspire.

Rebecca A. Mavencamp is the executive director of the Rockford Area Historical Society and a freelance writer. This article is part of a larger study of the Stork family that she is researching and writing.

Endnotes

1. Diary of Grace Stork, September 21, 1914. All of the diaries of Stork family members cited in this article are in the collections of the Rockford Area Historical Society, Rockford, Minn. The diaries are currently being scanned and uploaded for online access at Minnesota Reflections, Minnesota Digital Library (<http://reflections.mndigital.org>).
2. Wanda Gág, *Growing Pains: Diaries and Drawings for the Years 1908–1917* (reprint St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1984; original edition New York: Coward-McCann, 1940), 185 (January 19, 1914).
3. Ibid.
4. *Sanborn Atlas*, tabs 755 (Jefferson and Cleveland Avenues) and 762 (Randolph and Cleveland Avenues), *Fire Insurance Maps for Minnesota Cities, St. Paul, 1903*, plate 24.
5. Diary of Grace Stork, 1914, see her sales records in the back pages.
6. According to architectural historians Jeffrey A. Hess and Paul Clifford Larson in their book *St. Paul's Architecture: A History* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006), Lockwood was born in London in 1866, received his education from King's College and came to St. Paul via Winnipeg. He served as an apprentice for several years before setting up his own practice in 1893, succeeding in a large part due

- to his ability to add personal flair to a basic Colonial Revival design. One of Lockwood's best known designs can be seen in the James Howe House on Oakland Avenue, a compilation of several designs that "hold the idiosyncratic detailing in check" and transform "what could easily be a crackpot experiment into a highly imaginative domestic design" (p. 84). Lockwood died in 1907 at the age of 43.
7. Donald L. Empson, "Highland-Groveland-Macalester Park: The Old Reserve Township," *Ramsey County History*, 10, no. 2 (Fall 1973): 13–19.
8. Diary of Grace Stork, June 24, 1914.
9. For a precise representation of the location of these land parcels, see the reproduction of a part of the *1916 G.M. Hopkins St. Paul Plat Map* that's reproduced on the back cover.
10. Diary of Florence Stork, 1914.
11. Diary of Clinton Stork, 1914.
12. Diary of Grace Stork, 1914.
13. Diary of Florence Stork, 1914.
14. Diary of Grace Stork, 1914.
15. Diary of Clinton Stork, 1915.
16. Diary of Clinton Stork, 1915.
17. Elmer L. Andersen, *A Man's Reach*, edited by Lori Sturdevant (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000), 79. Under "Occupation" on

his Selective Service Registration Card (draft card), Clinton wrote "Treasurer and Assistant Manager" at the H.B. Fuller Co. in St. Paul.

18. Letter from Aunt Kate Craig to Aunt Nellie (Mrs. George Drake), January 19, 1884.
19. Diary of Florence Stork, 1914.
20. Robert Crump, *Minnesota Prints and Printmakers, 1900–1945* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2009), 65–66, 152, and 179.
21. One of several topical courses taken by Florence Stork, Wanda Gág, and other students at the Institute of Art. "Commercial Art" focused on developing skills necessary for art used in business and advertising; see Michael Conforti et al. *Minnesota 1900: Art and Life on the Upper Mississippi, 1890–1915* (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1994), 98, 130, 176, 202.
22. Diary of Florence Stork, 1914.
23. Diary of Grace Stork, 1914.
24. Gág, 197.
25. Diary of Florence Stork, 1914.
26. Diary of Grace Stork, 1914.
27. Diary of Clinton Stork, 1916–1917; October 7, 1916.
28. Diary of Florence Stork, 1917–1918.

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This excerpt from Plate 30 of the 1916 G.M. Hopkins plat map of St. Paul shows the Stork property along Jefferson Avenue, which is at the top of the map running east and west. They built their home on the eastern corner of the section, along Cleveland Avenue South (perpendicular to Jefferson), and farmed the remainder. By this time, the Storks had already subdivided a portion of their land to build Pleasant Park and create a portion of Juliet Street. The property to their south was owned by H.M. Muckle, friends of the Storks with whom they stayed upon their arrival to St. Paul in 1903. To the west, bordered by Mississippi River Boulevard, lived Frederick Spangenberg, whose buildings are also visible on the map near Jefferson Avenue. Plat map courtesy of the Ramsey County Historical Society. For more on the Stork family in St. Paul, see page 3.