

RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**  
A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*From Streetcars to Soccer*

**The Rise and Fall of  
TCRT's Snelling Shops**

JOHN W. DIERS, PAGE 11



*Sunday*, a painting by Cameron Booth.

*St. Paul's Mary Griggs Burke, Abby Weed Grey, and Aimee Mott Butler*

**Three Extraordinary Women  
Who Supported Art and Artists**

MOIRA F. HARRIS, PAGE 1

## By the Numbers . . .

### Summer slide loss statistics

Months of math skills lost over the summer

**2.6**

Months of reading skills lost over the summer

**2**

Months of overall learning lost over the summer

**1**

Weeks spent in the fall relearning old material after summer slide

**6**

Hours per week needed over the summer to prevent any learning loss

**2-3**

#### SOURCES:

[www.summerlearning.org/?page=know\\_the\\_facts](http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=know_the_facts)

[www.readingrockets.org/article/summer-reading-loss](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/summer-reading-loss)

[www.littlescholarsllc.com/blog/summer-learning-loss-facts/](http://www.littlescholarsllc.com/blog/summer-learning-loss-facts/)

Teresa Swanson's article beginning on page 22 provides information on an innovative program designed to fight summer slide.

### ON THE COVER



Horses quietly standing in fields or near barns were a favorite subject for Cameron Booth. This large undated oil is called *Sunday*. Courtesy of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, Photo by Karen Kolander.

## Contents

- 1 *St. Paul's Mary Griggs Burke, Abby Weed Grey, and Aimee Mott Butler*  
**Three Extraordinary Women Who Supported Art and Artists**  
MOIRA F. HARRIS
- 11 *From Streetcars to Soccer*  
**The Rise and Fall of TCRT's Snelling Shops**  
JOHN W. DIERS
- 22 *Fighting Students' Summer Slide in Ramsey County*  
**Investigate MN!**  
TERESA SWANSON
- 31 *Letter to the Editor*

## Message from the Editorial Board

Art lovers, soccer fans, and curious kids might all find something in this issue to spark their interest. Moira Harris writes about three local women art collectors who strengthened institutions with gifts from their informed passions. Mary Griggs Burke journeyed to Japan thirty times, studying and seeking the best examples of fine East Asian art, which are now in the New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Abby Weed Grey also traveled, but her inspiration was contemporary Middle Eastern art; those works found a home at New York University. And Aimee Mott Butler furnished the walls of Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation with carefully chosen works by Minnesota artists. The new Minnesota United soccer stadium (Allianz Field) at Snelling and University is rising from the ashes of the old Twin Cities Rapid Transit shops. John Diers shares the history of this bustling center, which once held 400 employees and 200 streetcars while they were repaired and refurbished for their daily runs through the Twin Cities. And Terry Swanson tells us about our RCHS summer program for schoolchildren, *Investigate MN!* We have partnered with other nonprofits to give kids a taste of different aspects of local history, from food to artifacts to the natural world. It's another way that RCHS is bringing history into the present and laying the groundwork for future informed perspectives.

Anne Cowie  
Chair, Editorial Board

The Ramsey County Historical Society thanks Board Member James A. Stolpestad and affiliate AHS Legacy Fund for supporting the updated design of this magazine. Publication of Ramsey County History is also 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.

## Letter to the Editor

### *More on Mary Jane Massey*

I noted in your Winter 2018 issue Steve Lydon's account of what happened, as best he can reconstruct it, to Mary Jane Massey ("Terror Visits Fort Snelling: The 1940 Murder of Mary Jane Massey"). Her story is fascinating, not only from the perspective of police drama, but also because we often don't think about Fort Snelling as a place for anyone other than soldiers. Thanks to Steve Lydon for digging into the records and writing about this crime story so that Mary Jane's murder is more widely known.

My husband and I have been leading tours of Fort Snelling's Upper Post for several years and have found the stories of community and family to be an overlooked aspect. Mary Jane's father, Sergeant William A. Massey, was a career military man. His tales of the good life here in Minnesota inspired his brother to leave their large family and home in Texas and join him in the military for a few years. When Sergeant Massey was briefly stationed at other posts, Mary Jane and her mother, Golda, remained at Fort Snelling. Today, extended family members in Texas know little about what happened to Mary Jane. A few of the older generation had heard about the murder, but thought surely the perpetrator had been caught and punished. As a grandson of William's cousin, Minnie, told me, his grandmother "kept everyone in the loop, but she never wanted to be the bearer of bad news when it came to family."

Because of Steve Lydon and those of us who lead tours of the Upper Post, the story of Mary Jane and her short life on the Fort Snelling post will not be forgotten. Get the full scoop on Mary Jane and other aspects of Fort Snelling's twentieth-century history, including officers' row and administrative areas, in a future walking tour offered by the Friends of Fort Snelling. The tours are given from time to time during good weather. For more information, see "Upper Post Walking Tour" on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) for tickets.

*Susanne M. Adler  
Minneapolis*



Two 1940 photos of Mary Jane Massey (born August 2, 1926; died the night of July 13–14, 1940). Her remains were later buried in the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. The top photo appears to have been retouched to mask out the background, a technique widely used in reporting newspaper stories. Photos courtesy of Susanne M. Adler.



Comparing and contrasting nineteenth-century pioneer and Dakota lifeways is at the core of the Gibbs Farm mission. Gender roles defined life for both cultures, but while Dakota women relied on traditional ways, pioneer women lived at a time filled with new inventions.

Pictured on the top left is a *psin* (wild rice) winnowing basket fashioned from birch bark, made and used by Dakota women for centuries in the final stage of winnowing rice. On the bottom left is a newfangled device called a Lazy Daisy that women like Jane Gibbs used to churn butter because it was much faster than a simple wooden-dash churn.

Participants in the 2018 *Investigate MN!* program not only learned about these objects, they also used them and tasted the foods associated with them.

*The psin winnowing basket is a reproduction; the Lazy Daisy is an original. Photos by Mollie Spillman. Both objects are reproduced by permission from the collections of the Ramsey County Historical Society.*

## Your Dollars Make a Difference

*If every RCHS Donor & Member...*

To donate or  
give a membership gift:  
[www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com)  
or call 651-222-0701

**...Adds a recurring \$20  
monthly donation**



Your \$240  
provides free  
craft activities  
to 160 students  
at Gibbs Farm

**...Increases their  
annual gift by \$100**



Together we could  
reduce summer  
learning losses for  
75 students

**...Encourages  
one friend to  
join as a \$50  
member**



Each new \$50 enables RCHS to  
save an additional box of historic  
photographs and archives

**R.C.H.S.**  
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit #3989



The Minnesota United Football Club expects Allianz Field, its new soccer stadium, to open for play in early 2019. The capacity of this soccer-specific facility is more than 19,000. This aerial photo from August 2018 shows that much of the exterior of the stadium has been completed on the site that was once the TCRT's Snelling Avenue repair facility. University Avenue and the nearby station on Metro Transit's Green Line can be seen on the right. Snelling Avenue runs north-south on the far side of the stadium. In the distance is the Minneapolis skyline. *Photo courtesy of the M. A. Mortenson Company.*