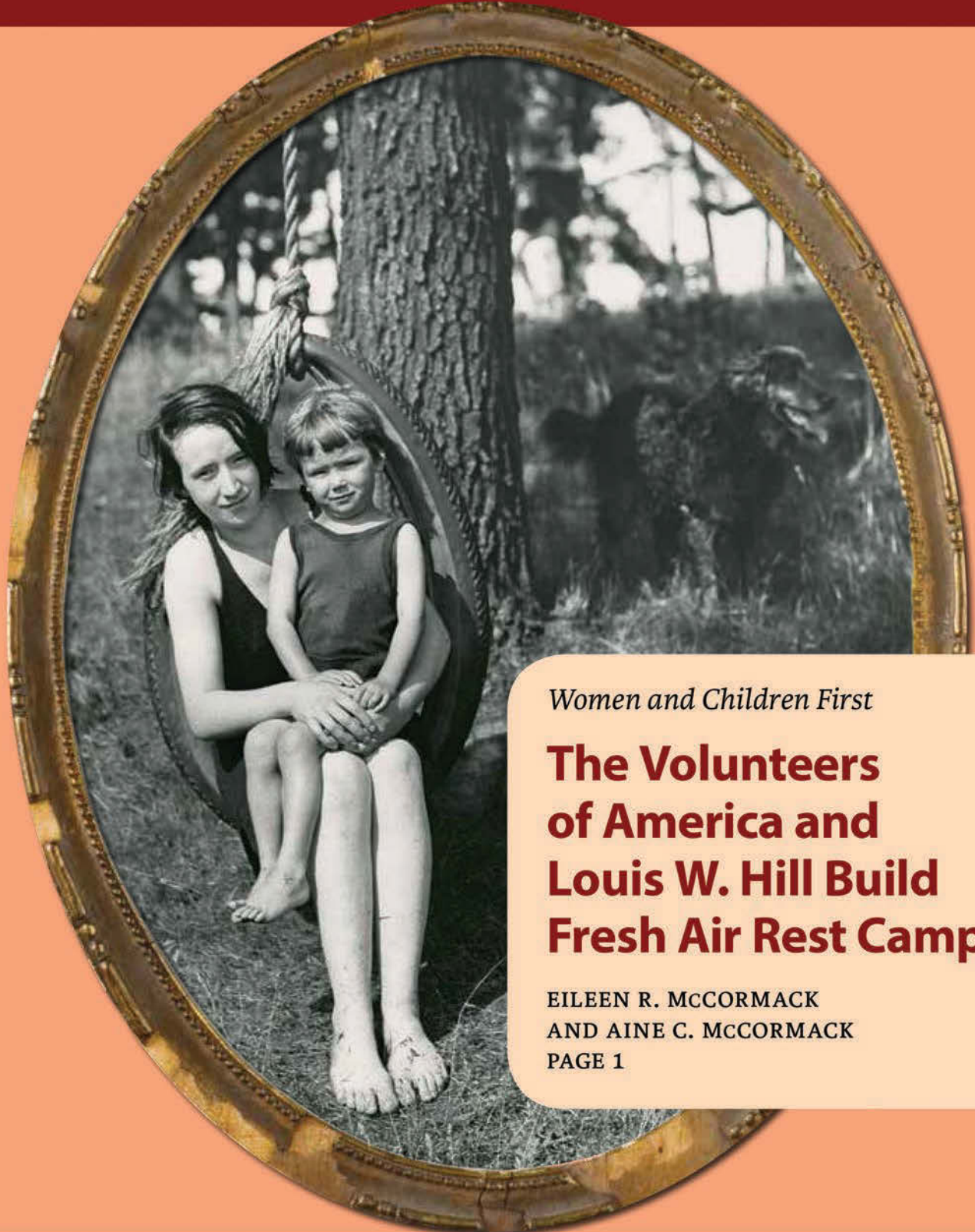


RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Public Archaeology

**Unearthing the Past in Ramsey
County and Beyond**

JEREMY L. NIENOW, PAGE 14



Women and Children First

**The Volunteers
of America and
Louis W. Hill Build
Fresh Air Rest Camp**

EILEEN R. MCCORMACK
AND AINE C. MCCORMACK
PAGE 1

By the Numbers . . .

During this COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesotans have come together to support one another; cheer for and cry with one another; and deliver food, sew masks, stay inside, and check in with friends and family. This is civic engagement at its best! We thought we'd share how volunteers from the past and present made/make an impact. (All of this issue's articles highlight the remarkable efforts of volunteers and community stewards.) Working together is what makes our world go 'round.

Number of women and children who visited the Volunteers of America (VOA) Fresh Air Rest Camp in North Oaks between 1922 and 1950.

50,000+

Number of Volunteers of America locations/services in Minnesota in 2020.

110

Number of Ramsey County MAHSC volunteers who helped on public archaeology projects.

52

Number of judges (community servants) who heard testimony in *Clara Anderson v. City of St. Paul*?

9

Number of years Clara Anderson's attorney Paul C. Thomas worked on her case?

3

Number of volunteer hours at RCHS in fiscal year 2018-19.

14,500+

Thank you, volunteers: past, present, and future! You make a difference!

ON THE COVER

In the 1920s, the Volunteers of America leased land on Louis W. Hill's North Oaks farm and established a Fresh Air Rest Camp for

poor working mothers and their children.

This young woman and her child were treated to two weeks of rest and relaxation.

Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.



Contents

- 1** *Women and Children First*
The Volunteers of America and Louis W. Hill
Build Fresh Air Rest Camp
 EILEEN R. MCCORMACK AND AINE C. MCCORMACK
- 14** *Public Archaeology*
Unearthing the Past in Ramsey County and Beyond
 JEREMY L. NIENOW
- 19** *Clara Anderson v. City of St. Paul*
A Woman's Fight to Save Her Job in the Face of Discrimination
 JOHN H. GUTHMANN

Message from the Editorial Board

The articles in this issue reflect efforts to help our citizens and achieve justice. Eileen and Aine McCormack reflect on the history of the mother and child rest camp that once operated on the shore of Lake Gilfillan in North Oaks. It was run by the Volunteers of America and funded largely by Louis Hill Sr. John Guthmann documents the case of Clara Anderson, who worked as a bartender during World War II but was dismissed when soldiers returned home. Her constitutional challenge to the city ordinance prohibiting her employment was rejected by the courts. It was not until the 1970s that discrimination on the basis of sex was stringently addressed. Finally, Jeremy Nienow describes how volunteer archeologists have been digging through literal layers of history as part of a collaborative project with other historical societies.

Collaborative efforts also are required of us now in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. Websites with information include:

- **More RCHS COVID-19 info:** <https://www.rchs.com/news/rchs-and-gibbs-farm-covid-19-updates/>
- **State of Minnesota COVID-19 info:** <https://mn.gov/covid19/>
- **CDC COVID-19 info:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

On the next page, we share RCHS's response to the crisis and our attempts to keep history alive for you, our members. Work continues on improvements at the Gibbs Farm, and our website now contains additional resources. Most significantly, part of our mission is to preserve the stories of Ramsey County residents, even as they happen. We invite you to complete a survey about recent events and how they have affected your lives. Your responses will become part of our archives for future generations to reflect on. Go to <https://www.rchs.com/news/history-of-covid-19-in-ramsey-county/> to participate.

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. Thanks to Hill Farm Historical Society for their financial support.

Dear Friends of the Ramsey County Historical Society,

We hope you are well, and your family is in good health and good spirits in this challenging time. The staff, board, and volunteers at Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) are safe and busy working remotely. We are committed to retaining our talented staff, and there is a great deal of work to do even if we are not open to the public. We will come out the other side of this pandemic, and students and adults will still need the resources we provide.

In the meantime, we have increased available content online through the website as well as via our Facebook page. If you are not already following RCHS on Facebook, do so today to access a variety of history posts. Please tell your friends to do the same!

Construction of the very first year-round education space at Gibbs Farm is continuing! This critical project is transforming our Red Barn from an uninsulated, seasonal space into a year-round facility that will increase our capacity by 3,000 students annually. We are grateful to the Katherine B. Andersen Fund for a matching grant of \$45,000 to help close the gap on the project—we are still accepting up to \$40,000 in pledges, payable over the next two years to secure this matching grant and ensure the entire project is completed as planned. Please contact Chad Roberts at chad@rchs.com to participate in this project.

We strongly encourage you to explore the 3D tours of the Gibbs farmhouse and one-room schoolhouse—these are outstanding resources created by the Gibbs team with the assistance of Nienow Cultural Resources. See <https://www.rchs.com/news/gibbs-360-tours/>.

We expect to continue publishing our award-winning *Ramsey County History* magazine on its normal schedule. I am also excited to share that *Great Northern Iron: James J. Hill's 109-Year Mining Trust* by Jim Stolpestad is now available and selling fast! This is a tremendous story encompassing mining, the Hill family, and so much more. The book is well written and absolutely beautiful. See <https://www.rchs.com/news/northern-iron/for-ordering-information>.

Staff and artists are continuing their work on “Persistence,” our upcoming exhibition celebrating women’s suffrage and activism from the past 120 years. We expect this exhibit to open on August 18, 2020, and hope to see you there. We also are in the final stages of the “St. Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Courthouse Council Chambers Art Project.” Artists have submitted their work, and we expect installation to take place over the summer. Watch for our social media and email announcements for more details in May.

As you know, history doesn’t stop, and right now we are living through an extraordinary time. To help record this event in our community, we ask you to share your COVID-19 experiences via an online survey available at our website—<https://www.rchs.com/news/history-of-covid-19-in-ramsey-county/>. Our Editorial Board Chair Anne Cowie has more to say about this on the preceding page.

From all of us here at YOUR RCHS, please stay safe—we look forward to seeing you as soon as circumstances allow!

Regards,



Chad Roberts, President



Jo Anne Driscoll, Chair of the Board



Chad Roberts



Jo Anne Driscoll

Unearthing the Past in Ramsey County and Beyond

JEREMY L. NIENOW, PHD, RPA

On a bright fall morning last September, an intrepid group of children embarked on an expedition to learn what lies just beneath the surface at Gibbs Farm, a historic site managed by the Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) that interprets pioneer and Dakota life in the mid-1800s. The “amateur archaeologists” dutifully rolled up their sleeves, put on gloves, and worked side by side with trained professionals, painstakingly pushing soil through quarter-inch mesh screening in search of clues. When each shovel test was completed, they recorded notes about soil texture, color, and location. They found fragments of coal, bottle glass, bricks, and rusted metal along with more

modern plastic straws, gum wrappers, and twist ties. These clues help archaeologists understand land-use history, with their own set of unique fingerprints to the past. With each object placed in a marked artifact bag, those present were transported back in time and made keenly aware of how their own artifact footprints will be left for future archaeologists to ponder.

The Importance of Public Archaeology

Public archaeology has been on the rise in Minnesota over the past thirty years. Oftentimes, the work of archaeologists can come off as overly technical and jargon filled. In an effort to combat this and become more accessible to those

A number of young folks joined local archaeologists in digging several shovel tests near the Gibbs Farm admissions building. Their unabashed zeal for the project was visibly apparent, and even some typically stoic parents jumped in to assist. In truth, many adults once imagined becoming archaeologists when they were younger, and the opportunity was hard to resist. *Courtesy of Jeremy L. Nienow.*



who are often funding the work, archaeologists sometimes open their doors to volunteer assistance both in the field and lab, offering firsthand experience, educational opportunities, and a bridge to members of the public—from the curious bystander to individuals actively engaged in the hobby of artifact collecting.

Sixteen-year-old Niamh Mee enjoyed her introduction to archaeology at Gibbs Farm. “I learned a lot about the process, what archaeologists are actually looking for, and how to look at soil and determine the age of an artifact based on it,” says Mee, a long-time intern at Gibbs. “I was surprised by how the archaeologists were able to identify what artifacts were just by looking at them. Something that I would guess was just a chunk of rock was actually a piece of brick dating from about 1900. It was really cool!”¹

MAHSC—A New Partnership

The Gibbs project is part of a yearslong journey undertaken by several county historical societies to learn more about the recent and ancient past and the archaeological collections and sites they steward. The Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative, or MAHSC, was first proposed by RCHS President Chad Roberts in 2015.² The initial twelve-month pilot program provided archaeology and cultural resource management (CRM) outreach services to local history organizations in the seven-county metro area.

CRM helps protect our archaeological heritage within a legislative framework established in the 1960s as part of the National Historic Preservation Act.³ This Act was passed at the same time clean water and air environmental laws were being enacted and in the same spirit. Just as our water, air, and land should be cared for as a sacred trust for future generations, our cultural history also should be preserved. Because CRM archaeologists typically work side by side with developers, land managers, and municipalities, the profession is often thought of as business archaeology versus academic archaeology. When people think about this science, they often imagine large excavations busy with students, deep-thinking professors, and a treasure trove of objects to eventually be displayed in a museum. CRM archaeologists more often are found with construction plans and hard hats or even in a boardroom with



Archaeologist Fred Sutherland (*right*) asks Illyanna Gallup-Strom her thoughts on soil texture and color. Madeline Drake, a youth intern at Gibbs Farm, sifts dirt taken from a shovel test as she searches for archaeological evidence. *Courtesy of Jeremy L. Nienow.*



architects, historians, and land managers—all helping developers understand and preserve parts of our shared cultural heritage.

Anoka, Dakota, Ramsey, and Scott County Historical Societies participated in the MAHSC pilot, which sought to address their archaeological needs and establish a common base of knowledge and a cost-effective way to assess collections and create tools useful to each member and the group as a whole.

With the help of scientists from California, Canada, Idaho, Iowa, and Minnesota, the MAHSC reported on the current archaeological landscape of each county. They assessed their archaeological collections; promoted archaeologist-led public programs; and engaged in scientific projects



A small private collection of scrapers, knives, projectile points, and chipping stones from the Fish Creek area in 2019. Courtesy of Jeremy L. Nienow.

examining local clay sources, bison bones, wood and charcoal, pollen, and caches of stone tools. This project not only helped each county better understand what it already had in its own collections, but it also created deeper insights into those objects, as well as potential new directions for future projects. MAHSC presented its findings to the Minnesota Historical Society and the wider professional community, including at the eleventh annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference and the Minnesota Association of Museums Conference. This has given the archaeological and historical society communities a chance to speak a shared language and create long-lasting relationships around the past and the objects which so easily tie us to time and place.

With this new information in hand, three of the original partners (Anoka, Dakota, and Scott County Historical Societies) moved forward to examine archaeological alpha sites. This is a location that has been documented from written accounts, historic maps, or oral tradition but has never been investigated by an archaeologist to see if it still contains intact cultural deposits. These sites are typically and frequently reported by interested members of the public and may include personal collections, stories, and photographs that emphasize the location's potential as a historic or prehistoric site. Archaeologists often rely upon the early work of passionate avocationalists to point them in the

right direction. Unfortunately, many locations in the inner-metro area have few archaeological materials remaining because they have been destroyed by continued urban development.

Dakota, Ramsey, and Scott County Historical Societies partnered again in 2019 for a new round of archaeological projects based on findings from the first two iterations of the program. The historical societies used the information from past projects to locate places with strong archaeological potential, with the goal of exploring the similarities and differences in Euro-American and Native American sites between counties. Dakota County is following up on reported mills, farmsteads, and Native American sites. Scott County selected two ghost towns where Native American stone tools also have been reported. These decisions were, in turn, influenced by public input at a series of talks, including one at Gibbs Farm in mid-September. For its part, RCHS opted for further investigation of Gibbs Farm, as well as Fish Creek Preserve, the latter continuing an ongoing partnership with Maplewood Area Historical Society that began in 2015.

Gibbs Farm and Fish Creek Preserve Sites

Gibbs Farm is one of the earliest farmsteads in Ramsey County. The Gibbs family had a strong, positive, and longstanding relationship with the Dakota people of *Heyate Otunwe* (Cloud Man's Village). The farm still operates as a historic site, teaching early Minnesota agricultural and immigrant history, as well as Dakota culture in a program developed by Dakota Culture Bearers and Elders twenty years ago.⁴

Archaeology work at Gibbs Farm initially started with investigation of the Gibbs family's first home—a "soddy" or partially underground, sod-roofed structure that Jane and Heman Gibbs lived in for five years as they established their farm. This investigation turned up over 3,700 artifacts and formed the basis for twenty-five years of archaeology work covering the property.⁵

As part of the most recent project, areas behind the Gibbs Farm offices, as well as next to the admissions building, were examined. Thirteen-year-old Casper Campbell helped out. It was his third time excavating at Gibbs. He has also done some archaeology work at Fort

Snelling. “Archaeology is a hard job to pursue and is physically demanding sometimes, but overall it’s pretty cool to find things and kind of disappointing when you don’t find things,” Campbell says. “I enjoy learning more about people who lived a long time ago and thinking about how the stuff we find ended up there.”⁶

With this final round of shovel tests, all areas of the Gibbs Farm property have now had some level of archaeological survey. As RCHS continues to visualize Gibbs Farm’s interpretive potential, they now have a valuable planning tool at their disposal to understand the areas with the most archaeological value and areas where new development can safely take place.

The second investigation in Ramsey County is at the Fish Creek Park Preserve, part of the larger Fish Creek Natural Area Greenway that stretches between Carver Lake in Woodbury through Maplewood and into the Mississippi River.⁷ The creek exhibits historically and environmentally interesting elements, including a Depression-era dam, Native American archaeological sites, and a natural, narrowly carved, bedrock channel known as Fish Creek Canyon.



Each shovel test must be photographed with a trowel for size reference and identifying information, including location, date, and who helped excavate. *Courtesy of Jeremy L. Nienow.*

In the early 2000s, a seventy-acre parcel of land in Maplewood was slated for residential development, and archaeologists completed an area survey, identified as site 21RA54 (CoPar II).



Bob Jensen with the Maplewood Area Historical Society holds the sifting screen while volunteers search through dirt from a shovel test, looking for historical clues at Fish Creek. *Courtesy of Jeremy L. Nienow.*

It contained a subsurface artifact scatter of ceramic and stone tool chipping debris just north of the creek. Essentially, archaeologists uncovered broken pot sherds and bits of stone that likely had been discarded in making projectile points (arrowheads) and other stone tools such as axes and knives. After analysis, the researchers dated the site at between 2,500 and 375 years old and suggested it may be a Native American campsite. People likely used the creek as a way to move up from the Mississippi River and over to Carver Lake. You could think of this as an off-ramp connecting a waystation to an interstate. In the past, the region's waterways were its primary means of transportation.

In the end, the development project did not move forward, and archaeological work ceased. However, with the MAHSC partnership grant in place, RCHS partnered with the City of Maplewood and the Maplewood Area Historical Society to conduct another public excavation. Over two steamy days in late July 2015, the crew of volunteer and professional archaeologists discovered sixty-eight additional artifacts, including more Native American ceramics and stone chipping debris. The materials helped further refine the campsite's place in time to the late Woodland Period, approximately 1,000 years ago.⁸

In the fall of 2019, archaeologists worked with Ramsey County Parks & Recreation and Bob Jensen with the Maplewood Area Historical Society to identify three additional potential

locations. Interested members of the public helped the professionals conduct a series of shovel tests.⁹ As happens sometimes, these locations did not uncover any new evidence. However, interest in the project generated a new potential site based on a local family's collection of artifacts, and so, the hunt for the creek's past users will continue in 2020.¹⁰

Jeremy L. Nienow is a passionate cultural resource management consultant who works in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. He has taught throughout the Twin Cities at various colleges and universities and enjoys connecting professionals and the public via public archaeology projects. He and his company, Nienow Cultural Consultants LLC, have been involved most recently with revitalization efforts at Fort Snelling, as well as with many other public and private developments in the metro area, including the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative (MAHSC). Currently, he is president of the Council for Minnesota Archaeology.

Acknowledgments: Thanks to our partners—Anoka, Dakota, Scott, and Ramsey County Historical Societies, Bob Jensen and the Maplewood Area Historical Society, the City of Maplewood, the State of Minnesota, and Ramsey County Parks & Recreation. If you are interested in participating in future archaeological endeavors, please contact RCHS at (651) 222-0701.

NOTES

1. Niamh Mee, email message to editor, January 7, 2020.

2. The original project was funded in part by Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) and the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund R-HP-1407-04941, a Heritage Partnership Program (Legacy) Grant administered by the Minnesota Historical Society and awarded to RCHS in partnership with the Metro Area Historical Society Collaborative (MAHSC).

3. "National Historic Preservation Act," Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, accessed January 14, 2020, <https://www.achp.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/nhpa.pdf>.

4. For more information on Gibbs Farm, go to <https://www.rchs.com/gibbs-farm/history-of-gibbs-farm/>.

5. Some of these projects have been completed by the University of Minnesota's Program for Interdisciplinary Archaeological Studies, the Institute for Minnesota Archaeology, Hamline University, and others.

6. Casper Campbell, email message to editor, January 12, 2020.

7. The greenway's center is Fish Creek, including Ramsey County's 142-acre Fish Creek Open Space and the City of Maplewood's seventy-acre Fish Creek Property parcel.

8. The Woodland Period generally extends from 500 BC to 1,500 AD and marks a time when Native Peoples started settling into villages and developed multiple innovations, including the bow and arrow, ceramics, and burial mound construction.

9. Shovel tests are generally the size of a medium pizza box and excavated down three feet. They are often spread fifty feet apart from one another and allow archaeologists to quickly look for archaeological sites across a landscape.

10. The MAHSC project continues to serve as a model for other counties to develop their own archaeological collaboratives.

31. Second Anderson Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 30, 1945).

32. As discussed later, a nearly identical provision enacted in 1945 by the State of Michigan was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in *Goesaert v. Cleary*, 335 U.S. 464 (1948).

33. Ordinance No. 8604, amending section 23, paragraph (e) of Ordinance No. 7537.

34. "Memorial for Paul C. Thomas," *Memorial Services for Deceased Members of the Ramsey County Bar Association*, Ramsey County Bar Association, April 30, 1982, 3-4.

35. "Memorial for Paul C. Thomas," 3. Paul Thomas joined his father in practicing law in a firm which was eventually known as Thomas, King, Swenson, Collatz & Ryan.

36. "Memorial for Paul C. Thomas," 3-4.

37. Compl. ¶ XX, *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 30, 1945).

38. First Anderson Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 30, 1945).

39. First Anderson Aff.

40. First Anderson Aff.

41. First Anderson Aff.

42. Second Anderson Aff.

43. Second Anderson Aff.

44. Compl. ¶¶ IX-X, XV, *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 30, 1945).

45. Second Anderson Aff.

46. Hildebrand Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 30, 1945).

47. Hildebrand Aff.

48. Hildebrand Aff.

49. Fink Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 30, 1945).

50. Parrish Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 30, 1945). It is not clear whether Ms. Parrish's daughter could have continued tending bar. Under Ordinance 8604, she would have to be manager of the bar or party to the liquor license to work as a female bartender.

51. Carlton Francis McNally was born in Oakdale, Massachusetts, in 1886. He came to St. Paul with his family in 1902, where he worked for his father's meat business. He pursued a legal education at the St. Paul College of Law (now the Mitchell Hamline School of Law), graduating in 1910. He joined with M.J. Doherty to open a law firm in 1912. He entered the military in 1917 and saw action in France as a lieutenant in the 340th Machine Gun Battalion 89th Division. After the Armistice, he returned home, becoming Assistant Corporation Council to the City of St. Paul. He was "Corporation Counsel" (St. Paul City Attorney) at the time of his appointment to the Ramsey County District Court bench in 1925. A member of the Board of Directors of the local Boy Scout Council, he presented the Eagle Scout badge to every young man in St. Paul who earned the award. Judge McNally was elected by his peers as Chief Judge in 1957, and he retired in 1959. He died in 1962. "Memorial for Carlton Francis McNally," *Memorial Exercises*

for Deceased Members of the Ramsey County Bar Association, Ramsey County Bar Association, April 13, 1963, 3-5.

52. *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Jul. 31, 1945).

53. McDonough Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Aug. 3, 1945). Commissioners John S. Findlan, W.A. Parranto, Robert F. Peterson, and Milton Rosen filed identical affidavits.

54. Ferguson, Hynes, & Lewis Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Aug. 6, 1945).

55. Ferguson, Hynes, & Lewis Aff. Gus Finstad, a bartender at Wally's Bar, said the same thing in his affidavit. Finstad Aff., *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Aug. 6, 1945).

56. *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Sept 5, 1945).

57. *Id.*

58. *See Atty. Gen. Op.*, Dec 16, 1941.

59. *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, File No. 253703 (Ramsey Co. Dist. Ct. Sept. 5, 1945) (citing *City of Hoboken v. Goodman*, 68 N.J. Law 217, 51 Atl. 1092 (1902); *People v. Jemnez*, 49 Cal. App. 2d Supp. 739, 121 P.2d 543 (1942)).

60. *Id.*

61. In the 1940s, the Supreme Court was made up of seven justices, and there was no Minnesota Court of Appeals.

62. R. at 3, *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, Nos. 34163, 34281 (Feb. 5, 1946 court trial record).

63. R. at 3-94.

64. R. at 45 (Feb. 5, 1946 John Hildebrand testimony).

65. R. at 54 (Feb. 5, 1946 George Ward testimony).

66. R. at 54.

67. R. at 94 (Feb 5, 1946 court trial record).

68. R. at 109 (Minnesota Supreme Court order of May 28, 1946).

69. "Woman Barkeep Will Carry Struggle For Her Job To State Supreme Court," *St. Paul Dispatch*, February 8, 1946.

70. *Anderson v. City of St. Paul*, 226 Minn. 186, 32 N.W.2d 538 (1948).

71. Harry H. Peterson was a St. Paul native and graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1912. He served as an Assistant County Attorney and the Ramsey County Attorney from 1923-1926. In 1932, he was elected Minnesota Attorney General. He resigned to accept an appointment to the Minnesota Supreme Court in December 1936. He resigned from the Minnesota Supreme Court in 1950 to run as the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) candidate for governor. After losing the election, he practiced law in Minneapolis. Later, he founded and was dean of the Midwestern College of Law, which became Hamline University Law School, now the Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Justice Peterson died on January 23, 1985. *See Minnesota State Law Library Research Guides*, <https://mncourts.libguides.com/hhpeterson>.

72. The court reiterated the principle that the due process clause of the Minnesota Constitution is not

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future.

*The mission statement of the Ramsey County Historical Society
adopted by the Board of Directors on January 25, 2016.*

The Ramsey County Historical Society's vision is to be widely recognized as an innovator, leader, and partner in preserving the knowledge of our community, delivering inspiring history programming, and using local history in education. Our mission of *preserving our past, informing our present, inspiring our future* guides this vision.

The Society began in 1949 when a group of citizens acquired and preserved the Jane and Heman Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights, which the family had acquired in 1849. Following five years of restoration work, the Society opened the Gibbs Farm museum (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974). Originally programs focused on telling the story of the pioneer life of the Gibbs family. In 2000, with the assistance of a Dakota Advisory Council, the historic site also began interpreting Dakota culture and lifeways, building additional structures, and dedicating outdoor spaces to tell these stories. The remarkable relationship of Jane Gibbs with the Dakota during her childhood in the 1830s and again as an adult encouraged RCHS to expand its interpretation of the Gibbs Farm to both pioneer and Dakota life.

In 1964, the Society began publishing its award-winning magazine, *Ramsey County History*. In 1978, an expanded commitment from Ramsey County enabled the organization to move its library, archives, and administrative offices to downtown St. Paul's Landmark Center, a restored Federal Courts building on the National Register of Historic Places. An additional expansion of the Research Center was completed in 2010 to better serve the public and allow greater access to the Society's vast collection of historical archives and artifacts. In 2016, due to an endowment gift of \$1 million, the Research Center was rededicated as the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center.

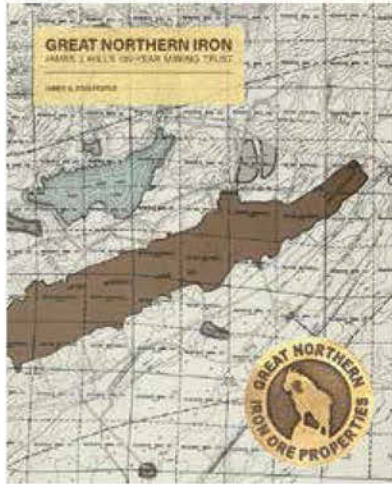
RCHS offers a wide variety of public programming for youth and adults. Please see www.rchs.com for details of upcoming History Revealed programs, summer camps at Gibbs Farm, courthouse and depot tours, and more. RCHS is a trusted education partner serving 15,000 students annually on field trips or through outreach programs in schools that bring to life the Gibbs Family as well as the Dakota people of Heyate Otunwe (Cloud Man's Village). These programs are made possible by donors, members, corporations, and foundations, all of whom we appreciate deeply. If you are not yet a member of RCHS, please join today and help bring history to life for more than 50,000 people every year.

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



*Great Northern Iron:
James J. Hills's 109-Year Mining Trust*
by James A. Stolpestad

Published by the Ramsey County
Historical Society



For more information and to order the book,
see the website at:
<https://www.greatnorthernironbook.com/>

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Congratulates

**Diane
Trout-Oertel**



Her article
“Emma F. Brunson: The First Woman
Registered as an Architect in Minnesota”
in *Ramsey County History Magazine*
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The building that houses Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery at 445 Smith Avenue in St. Paul was built in 1857. Shown here in 1937, decades after its commercial facade was "remodeled," it is the oldest surviving commercial building in the Twin Cities. It began as a German lager beer saloon operated by Anton and Mina Waldmann from 1857 to 1863. Such saloons served beer and hearty foods and offered music, family entertainment, lectures, and political debates. Women and children were welcome, and it's likely Mrs. Waldmann worked with her husband serving both food and drink. As time progressed, women's occupational roles at bars narrowed. That changed in the 1940s when women stepped into bartending roles that men vacated to fight in the war. Yet, when they returned, those same men wanted their jobs back.

Ramsey County Chief Judge John Guthmann tells the story of one

woman who fought the City of St. Paul to keep her bartending job. Her case against discrimination is long forgotten, yet, today women do tend bar. And, of course, Waldmann, which reopened as a brewery and restaurant in 2017, employs more women beer-tenders than men. It's also one of four venues for Ramsey County Historical Society's *History Revealed* programs. Once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, programming will resume. Learn more here: www.rchs.com/news/history-revealed/.

In the meantime, Waldmann is still providing beer and food to-go at www.waldmannbrewery.com, so grab a hearty meal and a crowler of pre-Prohibition-style lager. Then settle in and read Judge Guthmann's article, "*Clara Anderson v. City of St. Paul: A Woman's Fight to Save Her Job in the Face of Discrimination*," beginning on page 19. *Courtesy of Waldmann Brewery & Wurstery and Minnesota Historical Society.*