

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A PUBLICATION OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*A Doctor Ahead of His Time and the
Trouble that Followed*

The Sexual Life by Charles W. Malchow

RYAN T. HURT AND PAUL NELSON, PAGE 12



Interminable Township Turmoil

White Bear Township and the Power of the Vote

SARA MARKOE HANSON, PAGE 1

By the Numbers . . .

The democratic vote is a powerful tool, a tool Ramsey County residents put to use many times to voice their opinions about remaining in White Bear Township, becoming part of the City of White Bear Lake, or incorporating new villages or cities. Sara Markoe Hanson's article "Interminable Township Turmoil: White Bear Township and the Power of the Vote" on page 1 focuses on this century-long fight. The story debuts in November, just after 2020 elections in the United States. With voting heavy on our minds, we've provided a few county statistics from general elections in 2012 and 2016.

Number of people who voted in Ramsey County:
280,010 and **274,780**

Voter turnout in White Bear Township:
86% and **80%**

Voter turnout in White Bear Lake:
76% and **72%**

Voter turnout in St. Paul:
66% and **61%**

Percentage of people voting by absentee ballot:
8.7% and **23.3%**

NOTE: As we go to press, we know, based on preliminary figures, that Ramsey County residents cast 297,236 ballots in the 2020 general election. That's an increase of more than 17,000 compared to 2012 and nearly 22,500 additional voters compared to 2016.

SOURCES: <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting>.

ON THE COVER

It was 1956—a presidential election year (*Dwight Eisenhower v. Adlai Stevenson*)—but residents in northern Ramsey County also were focused on another political battle—to remain independent as a township or to become part of an incorporated municipality. In the midst of the politics, Dayton's, a department store in downtown Minneapolis, got into the act with one of its creative window displays—encouraging visitors from Ramsey County and elsewhere to learn how to operate a newfangled voting machine prior to elections and then "vote as you please, but VOTE" on November 6. *Courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.*



Contents

- 1 *Interminable Township Turmoil*
White Bear Township and the Power of the Vote
SARA MARKOE HANSON
- 12 *A Doctor Ahead of His Time and the Trouble that Followed*
The Sexual Life by Charles W. Malchow
RYAN T. HURT AND PAUL NELSON
- 26 *Born in Ukraine*
Sculptor Antin Pavlos
JANICE QUICK
- 31 **Rick Heydinger (1944-2020): A Tribute**

Message from the Editorial Board

Trivia is a popular game in these days of COVID-19. Our friends at Historic Saint Paul host trivia nights online right now, and Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) is joining in with a special trivia edition to honor our own publishing program this November, but you can learn interesting Ramsey County history trivia just by reading this magazine! For instance, which township is the only remaining one in Ramsey County, and how did it become the state's smallest and most densely populated? Or, which local doctor spent nearly a year in prison in 1906 for publishing a book on sexual response that foreshadowed the Kinsey Reports, which were released years later? Or, how about this? Which renowned Ukrainian-born sculptor lived and worked right here in the City of St. Paul, creating works for cemeteries and churches that are still admired today? Respectively, authors Sara Markoe Hanson, Ryan T. Hurt and Paul Nelson, and Janice Quick, give us answers to these questions. Read on to learn more.

In this issue we also honor Rick Heydinger, a kind man who contributed his time and talent through dedicated service on the RCHS board, along with many social justice causes in St. Paul. We will all miss Rick's thoughtfulness, good counsel, and unwavering commitment.

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.

Rick Heydinger (1944-2020): A Tribute

Richard (Rick) Borchers Heydinger Jr. was a doer—not for himself but for others; an enabler of and cheerleader for the underdog. His obituary in the *Pioneer Press* called him a man of “curiosity, grace, civility, and kindness.” He was just that to family and friends; communities in St. Paul, Ramsey County, and the Deep South; *and* to those of us who had the honor of collaborating with him here at Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS).

Rick joined the RCHS board in 2011. He chaired the Board Development Committee, working on recruitment and bylaws and policy and initiating equity and inclusion efforts. Earlier this year, he stepped down from his board duties. He died September 26, 2020.

Born in Chicago, Rick grew up in Morrison, Illinois, and Dubuque, Iowa, under the watchful eyes of parents who taught him to be humble, help others, and make the world a better place. That’s what he did in three different states when he earned three degrees (Carleton College (BA), Indiana University (MBA), and the University of Michigan (PhD)). That’s what he did in his career at the University of Minnesota and as a strategist with Public Strategies Group, an organization that works to improve or reinvent local and state governments around the country.

And that’s what he did when he retired in 2006—if you want to call it retirement. Rick loved serving his community. He helped found Ujamaa Place, a non-profit organization guiding young African American men; Frogtown Farm, an organic urban demonstration farm that strengthens the Frogtown neighborhood; and the Cuban American Youth Orchestra.

When Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, Rick led a group to the decimated city of New Orleans to help rebuild and serve those in need. His team of volunteers traveled there not once, but nearly a dozen times over the years. If that wasn’t enough, he worked with members



of Unity Church-Unitarian to recruit seventy Twin City-area pilgrims to Selma, Alabama, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

“Rick was a friend and mentor,” said RCHS President Chad Roberts. “His wisdom helped me be a better leader through challenges, large and small. He punctuated his advice with a note of encouragement and a way to embed kindness in difficult conversations. I will always be in his debt for inviting me to Selma, involving me in his work, and introducing me to outstanding leaders in our community.”

Rick worked tirelessly throughout his life as mentor, teacher, relationship builder, and social justice advocate. It was an honor serving with this humble, quiet leader. We are grateful for all he did to help Ramsey County Historical Society and so many other people and organizations in Minnesota and beyond.

Rick Heydinger was passionate about equity, loved RCHS, and was a key influencer in RCHS’s efforts to become a truly inclusive organization. As much as he loved our organization, he was even more passionate about his family and Ujamaa Place. Here he is with his wife, Beverly, and Otis Zanders, president and CEO of Ujamaa Place. *Courtesy of the Heydinger Family.*

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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 Ramsey County Historical Society's vision is to innovate, lead, and partner in preserving the knowledge of our community, delivering inspiring history programming, and incorporating 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 preserved the Jane and Heman Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights, which the family acquired in 1849. The original programs at Gibbs Farm (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974) focused on telling the story of the Gibbs family. In 2000, with the assistance of a Dakota Advisory Council, the site also began interpreting Dakota culture and lifeways. RCHS built additional structures and dedicated outdoor spaces to tell the stories of the remarkable relationship between Jane Gibbs and the Dakota people of Heyate Otunwe (Cloud Man's Village).

In 1964, the Society began publishing its award-winning magazine, *Ramsey County History*. In 1978, the organization moved its library, archives, and administrative offices to St. Paul's Landmark Center, a restored Federal Courts building on the National Register of Historic Places. An expansion of the Research Center was completed in 2010 to allow greater access to the Society's collection of historical archives and artifacts. In 2016, the Research Center was rededicated as the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center.

RCHS offers a variety of public programming for youth and adults. Visit www.rchs.com for details of upcoming History Revealed programs, summer camps, courthouse and depot tours, and more. RCHS serves 15,000 students annually on field trips or through outreach programs in schools that introduce the Gibbs Family and the Dakota people of Heyate Otunwe. 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.

Equity & Inclusion Statement

History informs us, inspires new choices, brings people together, and builds community. Likewise, it can be misused to inspire fear, create division, and perpetuate racism and other injustices. We resolve to present history in accordance with our values of Authenticity, Innovation, Inspiration, Integrity, and Respect. We believe that by doing so, our community will be more informed, more engaged, and will become stronger.

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



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