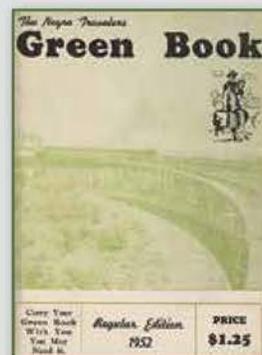
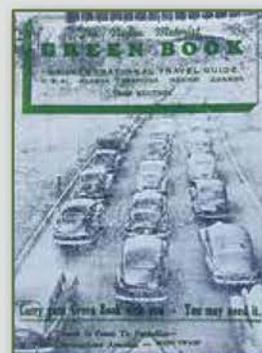
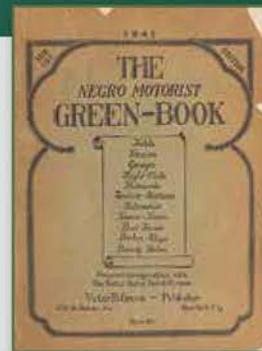


**Bob Brown:
 "Paint What You See"**

PAUL NELSON, PAGE 14



*Traveling Without Aggravation—
 How Victor H. Green Changed Travel for Black Americans*

Green Book Locations in the Historic Rondo Community (1940-1956)

NIEETA L. PRESLEY, PAGE 1

By the Numbers . . .

If an obstacle blocks our path, we find a way around said barrier. African Americans needed a reliable resource they could consult when traveling in the Jim Crow era. Victor H. Green created *The Negro Motorist Green Book* to help people find safe and welcoming tourist homes, restaurants, and other businesses that made leisure life a pleasurable life. There were even locations in St. Paul!

First and last year businesses in St. Paul's Rondo neighborhood were listed in the *Green Book*:

1940 and 1956

Victor Green's age the year he published his first book in 1936:

44

Number of Rondo locations listed in the *Green Book*:

9

Price of *The Negro Motorist Green Book* in 1938 and the *Travelers' Green Book* in 1963-64:

\$.25 and \$1.95

Number of St. Paul businesses outside of Rondo that advertised in the *Green Book*, beginning in 1957:

15

To learn more, see "*Traveling Without Aggravation—How Victor H. Green Changed Travel for Black Americans: Green Book Locations in the Historic Rondo Community (1940-1956)*" by Nieeta L. Presley on page 1.

ON THE COVER



The Credjafawn Social Club hosted a "Gypsy Tour" to Wisconsin in 1952. Only the occupants in the lead vehicle and the social committee knew the itinerary. All other families caravanned to "unknown" locations

for a day of fun and friendship. Names listed on the photograph back: John H. Griffin; "Bubs" Powell, Jr.; Rodney Maxwell; Corrine Griffin; Yvonne Powell; Betty Maxwell; Revoida Wright; and Viola Johnson. Photograph in the *Murphy-Taylor Family Papers*, courtesy, Hallie Q. Brown Community Archives; "Gypsy Tour" details in *St. Paul Recorder*, June 27, 1952, 7.

The *Negro Motorist Green Book covers (1941, 1949, 1952)*, courtesy of Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library Digital Collections

Contents

- 1 *Traveling Without Aggravation—How Victor H. Green Changed Travel for Black Americans*
Green Book Locations in the Historic Rondo Community (1940-1956)
NIEETA L. PRESLEY
- 14 **Bob Brown: "Paint What You See"**
PAUL NELSON
- 27 *All Hail Young Historians*
Minnesota Represented at National History Day 2022
- 29 **Addressing the "Trust Gap" Between Museums and Communities of Color**
CHAD P. ROBERTS

Message from the Editorial Board

Successful communities are the result of dedicated citizens working for the betterment of all. This issue focuses on such teamwork, beginning with Nieeta Presley's never-before researched *Green Book* locations in the Historic Rondo community. In our county's history, Black visitors couldn't always find safe access to motels, restaurants, or other businesses. Rondo neighbors set out welcome mats and fulfilled this need.

During the Great Depression, the US government developed programs to help citizens earn a living at a time when few imagined seeing a stable paycheck again. The Federal Art Project enabled local artists, including Bob Brown, to get back on their feet. See Paul Nelson's story on page 14.

Our last two articles highlight historians: young students representing Minnesota at this year's National History Day and seven specially selected McWatt Fellows. Through community collaborations, these scholars have uncovered important contributions to our state's history, helping all of us better understand our past so that we may build toward a more equitable future.

The examples above depend on "we/us" to get things done. I joke that I am a one-woman publishing department, but I could never do this job alone. In fact, this year, it took assistance from twenty-seven executive and editorial board members, nine colleagues, twenty-five authors, and fifty individuals/businesses (4,100 volunteer hours!), along with our extraordinary designer Wendy Holdman and printers Modern Press, Co., and Bookmobile to tell our county's history. Thanks, too, to editorial chair, Anne Field. She usually writes this column, but she's on a much-deserved vacation. It's important to recognize such dedicated teamwork.

Meredith Cummings
Editor

Correction: The photograph on page 10 in our Spring 2022 issue should be attributed to Stephanie Dehler of Stephanie Dehler Photography.

The Ramsey County Historical Society thanks former 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.

Minnesota Represented at National History Day 2022

Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences”—that was the theme of the 2022 National History Day national contest, held this year as a virtual event June 12 to 18. Among the nearly 1,700 projects entered from across the country and several nations, thirty-six were researched and developed in Minnesota under the guidance of dedicated teachers and tireless Minnesota History Day staff at the Minnesota Historical Society. Of those, ten history projects came from students across Ramsey County.¹

Top Honors

The national competition was divided into eighteen categories across junior high and high school. Students could write a research paper or create individual and group documentaries, performances, exhibits, or websites. Following multiple competition rounds, judges selected the top ten in each category. Of note are two Ramsey County projects:

Abigail Peters of Roseville Area High School placed second in the senior individual documentary category for her project, “Fight for Our Wilderness: The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act.”* According to Kyle Imdieke, a program associate with Minnesota History Day,

... Abby had to manage her time, conduct her research, and create her documentary without the benefit of regular in-class work time. Reaching nationals and taking second place ... is a testament to her remarkable work ethic, her vision as a documentarian, and her well-researched analysis of the diplomacy needed to protect one of Minnesota's priceless wilderness areas.²

Amelia Larsen, Allison Parker, and Lucy Peltier from Murray Middle School in St. Paul placed fourth with their junior group

performance, “Kate Warne: No Time for Diplomacy.” In addition, the team's work was recognized as the Outstanding Junior Affiliate for the State of Minnesota.* Their topic was Kate Warne, known as the United States' first female detective. Imdieke, again, commented:

Despite choosing a nineteenth-century figure few have heard of, these three conducted research that would put many graduate students to shame. Going beyond simple biography, their creative performance showed how Warne's success was not only remarkable in the context of debates over women's role in society at the time, but also in its impact on the complex diplomacy of the Civil War era.³

Other Minnesota finalists and special award winners included:

- **Third:** Ava Kallunki; Salk Middle School, Elk River; Junior Individual Exhibit; “The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project: Ending Debates with Diplomacy in Orbit.”
- **Fifth:** Levi Abbring; Avail Academy, Edina; Junior Individual Exhibit; “Capturing Kings Canyon: Ansel Adams and the Debate Over Conservation.”
- **Fifth:** Iona Heddle; Avail Academy, Edina; Junior Individual Performance; “The Falkland Islands War: Failure of Diplomacy, Success of Debate.”
- **Sixth:** Natalie Miller; Duluth East High School; Senior Paper; “Women End Strike for Peace: How 1960s American Mothers Used Diplomacy to End Atmospheric Nuclear Testing.” Miller's project also was named the Outstanding Senior Affiliate for the State of Minnesota.
- **Seventh:** Lilian Anderson, Emma Nomura, Eleanor Piri, and Benna Sowles;



This year's young Minnesota historians who qualified for the National History Day national competition in June gather for the virtual awards watch party at Minnesota Historical Society. *Courtesy of Minnesota History Day.*

Sunrise Park Middle School, White Bear Lake; Junior Group Exhibit; "Japanese-American Internment Camps."*

- **Seventh:** Grace Beaster and Martyn Dahl; Duluth East High School; Senior Group Exhibit; "Using Diplomacy to Save Lives Worldwide: The Duluth Model."
- **Ninth:** Allison Knoebel; Sunrise Park Middle School, White Bear Lake; Junior Individual Documentary; "The Hormel Strike 1985-1986."**
- **Ninth:** Anthony Lalta, Vincent Mueller, and Charlie Youtt; Saint Thomas Academy, Mendota Heights; Senior Group Documentary; "1882 Chinese Exclusion Act: National Debate on the Chinese Question."

Honorable Mentions

- Aeeda Winter; Winter Academy, Hermantown; Junior Individual Performance; "Fighting Violence with Diplomacy: The Duluth Model and Domestic Abuse Intervention."
- William Martin and Soren Mechelke; Highland Park Middle School, St. Paul; Junior Group Exhibit; "The Cuban Missile Crisis: Untying the Knot of War."*
- Miranda Kubek; Mankato West High School; Senior Paper; "(Re)Defining Objectivity: Debate Over the Role of Scientists as Climate Activists and Diplomats in the Late 20th Century." Kubek also won this year's History of the Physical Sciences & Technology

award, sponsored by the American Institute of Physics, Niels Bohr Library & Archive.

- Sasha Allen; Eden Prairie Senior High School; Senior Individual Documentary; "Days of Tranquility: How UNICEF Stopped a War to Start a Revolution."
- Tess Campion and Willa Campion; Open World Learning Community, St. Paul; Senior Group Documentary; "The Kyoto Protocol."**
- Sydney McGrath; Roosevelt High School, Minneapolis; Senior Individual Website; "The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution: A Lack of Diplomacy Overseas, Debate at Home."

Other Participants

Congratulations to the other nineteen individual and group participants in this year's National History Day, including the following from St. Paul: Elsa Lindfors, Murray Middle School; Ingrid Bollman, Murray Middle School, Honora Munday, Nativity of Our Lord; and Isabella Schmitt, Highland Park Senior High School.

Get Ready for 2023!

Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS) congratulates all chosen to attend the 2022 National History Day national competition and encourages young historians to participate in next year's event. Take advantage of invaluable resources at the Minnesota Historical Society, RCHS, local and county historical societies, cultural and political organizations, churches, libraries, and museums. There's a wealth of primary and secondary information out there. Half the fun is searching to see what you can find and learn.

Next year's theme is "Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas." To learn more about National History Day, go to <https://www.nhd.org/about>. To serve as a judge at the regional or state level, visit <https://www.mnhs.org/historyday/contests-and-judging/judges>. Registration opens in mid-December. Judging begins next spring.

*Signifies national participants from Ramsey County, Minnesota.

NOTES

1. Information compiled from the following web links: <https://www.nhd.org/winners> and <https://www.mnhs.org/historyday/contests-and-judging/national-event>.

2. Kyle Imdieke, email correspondence with editor, July 22, 2022.

3. Imdieke.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

President

Chad P. Roberts

Editor

Meredith Cummings

Editor Emeritus (2006-2018)

John Lindley

Founding Editor (1964-2006)

Virginia Brainard Kunz

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Board of Directors

Mari Oyanagi Eggum

Chair

Robert W. Mairs

First Vice Chair

Elizabeth J. Keyes

Second Vice Chair

Lorraine Griffin Johnson

Secretary

Marc J Manderscheid

Treasurer

Jo Anne Driscoll, Jo Emerson, Anne Field, Tim Glines, John Guthmann, John Hamburger, Judy Kishel, Debbie Lee, Joe Lutz, Peter Nguyen, Chad P. Roberts, Roxanne Sands, George T. Stephenson, Joe Twomey, July Vang, Glenn Wiessner, Helen Wilkie, Lee Pao Xiong

Directors Emeriti

W. Andrew Boss, George A. Mairs, Richard T. Murphy Sr., Paul A. Verret

Editorial Board

Anne Field, *Chair*, Thomas H. Boyd, Anne Cowie, John Diers, Kate Dietrick, Renoir W. Gaither, John Guthmann, Lisa L. Heinrich, Kyle Imdieke, John Milton, Laurie M. Murphy, Paul D. Nelson, Richard H. Nicholson, Jay Pfaender, David Riehle, Chad P. Roberts, Linda Schloff, George T. Stephenson, Mark Taylor, Steve Trimble, Mary Lethert Wingerd, Matthew Wright

Honorary Advisory Board

William Finney, George Latimer, Joseph S. Micallef, Marvin J. Pertzik, James Reagan

Ramsey County Commissioners

Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo, *Chair*

Commissioner Toni Carter

Commissioner Nicole Joy Frethem

Commissioner Jim McDonough

Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire

Commissioner Rafael E. Ortega

Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt

Ryan T. O'Connor, Manager, Ramsey County

Ramsey County History is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright © 2022, Ramsey County Historical Society. ISSN Number 0485-9758.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission from the publisher. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

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 (RCHS) strives to innovate, lead, and partner in preserving the knowledge of our community, deliver inspiring history programming, and incorporate local history in education.

The Society was established in 1949 to preserve the Jane and Heman Gibbs Farm in Falcon Heights, which the family acquired in 1849. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the original programs told the story of the Gibbs family. In 2000, with the assistance of a Dakota Advisory Council, RCHS also began interpreting Dakota culture and lifeways, now telling the stories of the remarkable relationship between Jane Gibbs and the Dakota people of Ĥeyáta Othújwe (Cloud Man's Village).

In 1964, the Society began publishing its award-winning magazine *Ramsey County History*. In 1978, the organization moved 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 and rededicated in 2016 as the Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center.

RCHS offers 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. The Society serves more than 15,000 students annually on field trips or through school outreach. Programs are made possible by donors, members, corporations, and foundations, all of whom we appreciate deeply. If you are not a member of RCHS, please join today and help bring history to life for more than 50,000 people every year.

Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, & Inclusion

RCHS is committed to ensuring it preserves and presents our county's history. As we continue our work to incorporate more culturally diverse histories, we have made a commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion that is based on this core idea: RCHS exists to serve ALL who call Ramsey County home. To learn more, please see www.rchs.com/about.

Acknowledging This Sacred Dakota Land

Mnisóta Makhóche, the land where the waters are so clear they reflect the clouds, extends beyond the modern borders of Minnesota and is the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Dakhóta (Dakota) people. It is also home to the Anishinaabe and other Indigenous peoples, all who make up a vibrant community in Mnisóta Makhóche. RCHS acknowledges that its sites are located on and benefit from these sacred Dakota lands.

RCHS is committed to preserving our past, informing our present, and inspiring our future. Part of doing so is acknowledging the painful history and current challenges facing the Dakota people just as we celebrate the contributions of Dakota and other Indigenous peoples.

Find our full Land Acknowledgment Statement on our website, www.rchs.com. This includes actionable ways in which RCHS pledges to honor the Dakota and other Indigenous peoples of Mnisóta Makhóche.

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

www.rchs.com

info@rchs.com


GIBBS FARM
Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life
Experience | Understand | Grow

(651) 222-0701



Apple Festival at Gibbs Farm

Saturday, September 24

10:00 am-4:00 pm

Visit our website for details on all our upcoming programs
www.rchs.com

Gibbs Farm is open to the public on Saturdays through October 30th
10:00 am-4:00 pm
651-222-0701 • gibbs@rchs.com

March of the Governors Podcasts

Tune in to our monthly podcast series, *March of the Governors*, for the fascinating and unexpected stories of Minnesota governors.

From Henry Hastings Sibley to contemporary office holders, this series provides brief snapshots of Minnesota's governors during their terms in office. Join us on this historical journey. We hope you will be inspired to learn more.



Color postcard labeled "Governor's Room, Minn. State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn." Date unknown. Studio: A. C. Bosselman & Co., New York. *Courtesy of RCHS Collection.*

Podcasts are available at:

<https://publishing.rchs.com/publishing/audio-visual/>



Grasshoppers in My Bed:

Lillie Belle Gibbs, Minnesota Farm Girl, 1877

Written by Terry Swanson; Illustrated by Peggy Stern

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society

This work of historical fiction for readers of all ages tells the story of a real eleven-year-old girl based on actual events and historical documents and artifacts from Gibbs Farm and in the RCHS archives.
RCHS Member Price: \$18.00 Regular Price: \$20.00

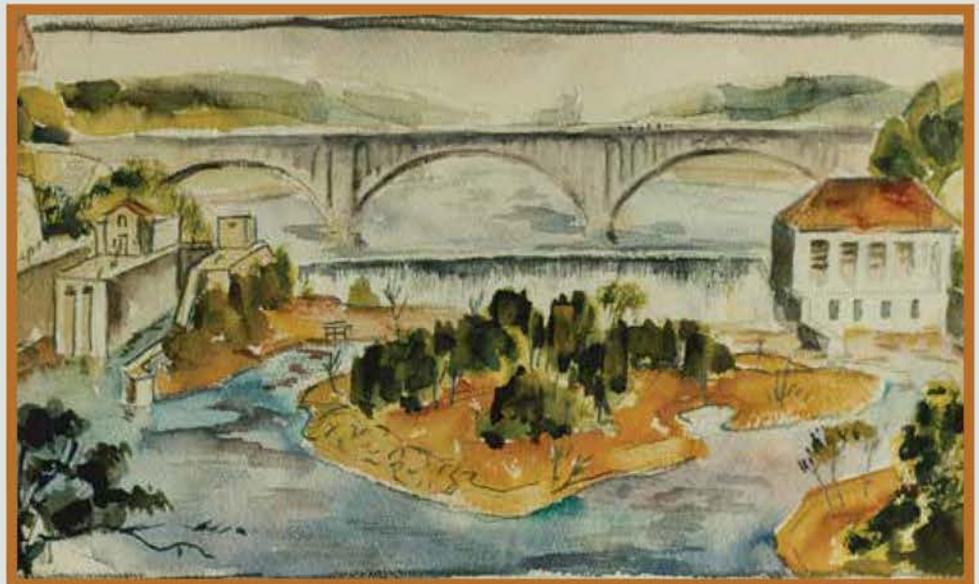
For more information and to purchase:

<https://www.rchs.com/news/grasshoppers-in-my-bed/>

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Bob Brown: "Paint What You See"

PAUL NELSON, PAGE 14



Bob Brown was taught to "paint what you see," and so he did—creating scores of paintings of recognizable sights and scenes throughout St. Paul and nearby counties, including these depictions of the Ford Bridge and Swede Hollow. *Courtesy of Deborah LeSueur Photograph Collection of Bob Brown Originals and Minnesota Historical Society.*