



Ramsey County Historical Society
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For Immediate Release January 2024

Ramsey County Historical Society History Revealed Special Event

The Heart of the Heartland: Norwegian American Community in the Twin Cities

David C. Mauk

Thursday, February 15, 2024, 1:00 pm

In partnership with the East Side Freedom Library, Ramsey County Libraries and Norway House.

Live presentation on Zoom. [Register Here.](#) Free and open to all.

Please note 1:00 CST program time – Prof. Mauk will be joining us from Norway.

David Mauk will provide an in-depth look at the Norwegian American community of Minneapolis–St. Paul and its deep and complex role in the economic, political, and cultural life of the Twin Cities over more than 170 years in this presentation.

Since the earliest days of European settlement in the region, tens of thousands of Norwegians have found their way to Minnesota. Many early arrivals settled in the cities, while others who initially chose the countryside departed for urban settings after they had become accustomed to the ways of their adopted home. The growing Twin Cities became home to Norwegian immigrants and their migrating compatriots alike.

These Norwegian Americans took up employment in a range of fields. They also assembled in churches and charitable organizations, carrying on homeland traditions even as they took on prominent roles in the larger urban community. Minnesotans of Norwegian descent in the twenty-first century may not speak their ancestral tongue, but they lovingly uphold many cultural practices of their ancestral home.

In *The Heart of the Heartland* David Mauk brought together personal interviews, demographic research, and archival exploration to inform stories of assimilation, ascendency, and collaboration among Minnesota's Norwegian Americans and their neighbors over 170 years, and he will share some of those stories in this special *History Revealed* program.

David C. Mauk is the author of *The Colony that Rose from the Sea: Norwegian Maritime Migration and Community in Brooklyn, 1850-1910* and numerous articles about Norwegian American ethnicity. Now retired, he taught American studies at the University of Oslo.

Heart of the Heartland is published by the Minnesota Historical Society Press, co-published with the Norwegian American Historical Association.

RCHS is committed to presenting the stories and histories of all in our community. To that end, in 2024 we are continuing to bring programs focused on our series, “Making Minnesota” which will explore the often untold stories, histories and experiences of the some of the world-wide immigrant, African American and Indigenous communities that make up Ramsey County, our most diverse county in Minnesota.

The Ramsey County Historical Society offers fun, hands-on programs for children and adults through the Gibbs Farm: Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life; creates and curates exhibitions of historical significance at the Landmark Center and other venues; provides documents and research opportunities at our Mary Livingston Griggs & Mary Griggs Burke Research Center, also in the Landmark Center; manages a large collection of historical artifacts, photos, and documents; and publishes an award-winning quarterly magazine, books and other publications on the history, people and stories of Ramsey County.

For more information on Ramsey County Historical Society & Gibbs Farm and our events:

Website: www.rchs.com

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