

COLLECTION IN OUR

In Our Collection shares the pieces acquired by Ramsey County Historical Society.

The collection contains tens of thousands of pieces, including archives, books, objects, and photographs, which are maintained by Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Mollie Spillman, in downtown St. Paul.



These weathered wooden signs are among the last surviving fragments of Lexington Park, carrying with them the echoes of cheering crowds and summer afternoons long past. Donated in 2013 by Gary Sparr, they come with a story passed down through his family. When the ballpark was torn down in 1956–57, his father joined others in salvaging pieces of the structure—wood that was once part of grandstands filled with fans. What might have been burned or discarded instead endured, transforming these simple boards into rare, tangible connections to St. Paul's baseball past.



**LEXINGTON PARK GRANDSTAND SIGNS
DONATED BY: GARY SPARR
ACQUIRED: 2013
RCHS COLLECTION: 2013.60**

IN OUR COLLECTION



Lexington Park served as home to the St. Paul Saints from 1897 to 1956. Built by Edward B. Smith for team owner Charles Comiskey, the ballpark stood at the corner of Lexington and University Avenues, more than two miles from downtown. While its distance posed challenges, it also allowed Sunday games—restricted elsewhere under blue laws—making the site uniquely valuable. Comiskey later moved his team to Chicago, where it became the modern-day Chicago White Sox, but St. Paul remained a stronghold of minor league baseball.

At its opening, Lexington Park was widely praised as one of the finest ballparks in the country, with a spacious field and thoughtful accommodations for fans. After a destructive fire in 1915, the park was rebuilt with a more efficient design focused on moving large crowds quickly, reflecting its role as accessible entertainment for the public. Its dimensions shaped play in memorable ways: A deep right field made home runs rare, adding to the park's distinctive character.

The park hosted decades of competition, including the intense rivalry between the Saints and the Minneapolis Millers.

Holiday doubleheaders—played on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, and Labor Day—drew large crowds who often traveled between the two cities to watch both teams in a single day. These events became a defining part of Twin Cities culture.

Lexington Park also welcomed some of baseball's biggest names during exhibition games. Fans saw legends like Babe Ruth, as well as future Hall of Famers such as Roy Campanella, who played briefly for the Saints in 1948 and delivered an extraordinary run of performances. Over the years, the park also hosted amateur games, football, and community events, further embedding it in local life.

By the 1950s, the aging wooden structure was no longer adequate, and the Saints moved to Midway Stadium in 1957. Lexington Park was demolished soon after, and the site was redeveloped. Although the physical ballpark is gone, commemorative markers and artifacts like these signs preserve its legacy. They stand as reminders of a place where sport, community, and history intersected for nearly six decades.