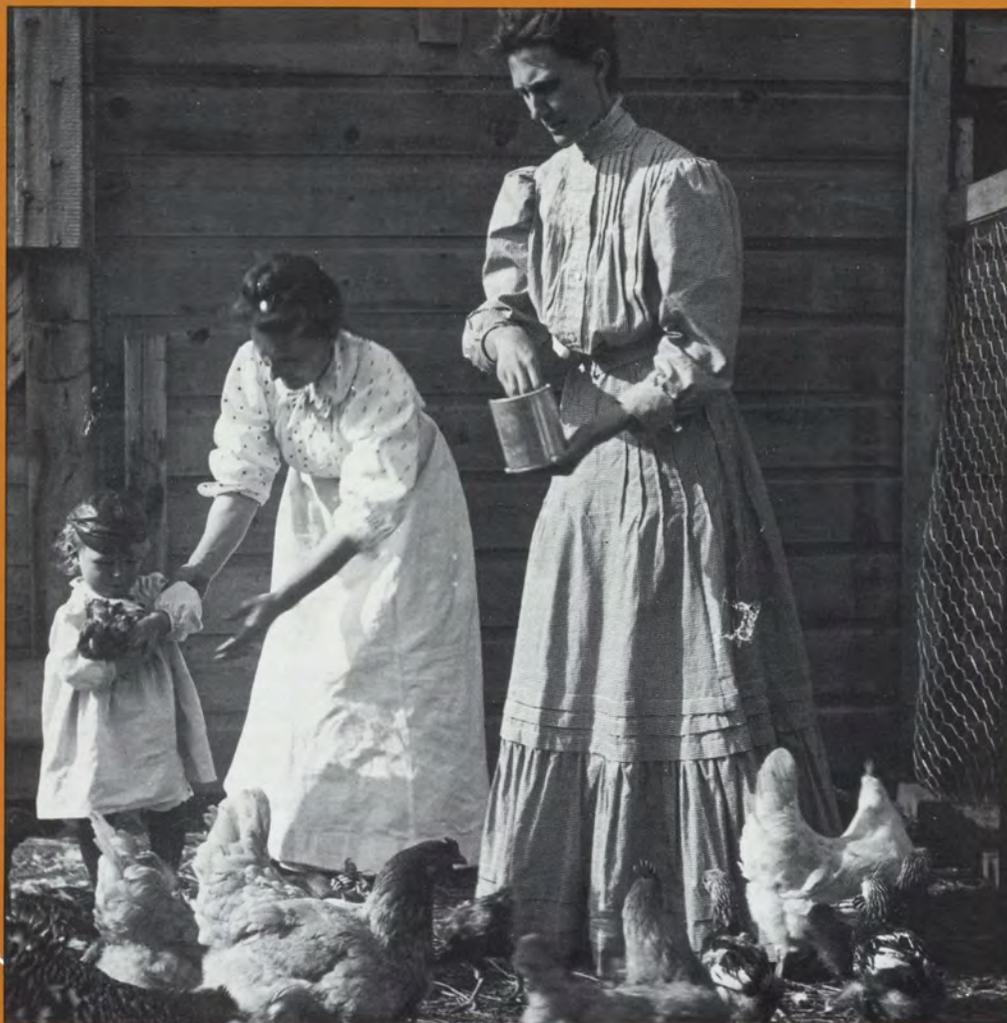


# RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Ramsey County Historical Society

Farming in the Shadow of the Cities:  
The Not-So-Rural History of  
Rose Township Farmers, 1850-1900

Volume 20  
Number 3



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# Ramsey County History

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*ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The photographs of Heman and Jane Gibbs on page 4 and of the farmhouse parlor and summer kitchen on pages 6 and 7 are by Erick Vryens. The Gibbs family photograph on page 15 is from the Ramsey County Historical Society collection. All other photographs used with the article beginning on page 3 are from the photographic collection of the Minnesota Historical Society. The photograph on the cover was taken by Dr. Emil King, Fulda, Minn.; the photo on page 13 by Kenneth Wright; the photo on page 15 by Joseph Brechet, Glencoe, Minn.; the photo on page 16 by H.D. Ayer, St. Anthony Park, Minn. The Trout house on page 21 was photographed by Gary Phelps for the Historic Sites Survey of Ramsey County conducted by the Ramsey County Historical Society and the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission in 1981-83. The photograph of Doreen Lindborg on page 22 is from the files of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Minnesota, and the photograph of Dorothy Hunt, also on page 22, is owned by Mrs. Hunt.*

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ter. My only recollection of streetcars prior to 1900 was that of small "dinky" open cars with trailers which operated on week-ends. There certainly were no plows to clear the snow from street and car tracks.

I have no recollection of attending any school while living at 1163 Burns Avenue. The nearest school, Van Buren on Maple Street and Conway, was a long distance away, and there were no buses, streetcars, or automobiles. After we moved to 948 Hastings Avenue

I went to the Van Buren School until the Mounds Park School was built. I have an 1892 report card from the Van Buren school.

Trivial incidents also come to my mind when I think of this remote period. One is marching up Burns Avenue with a group of kids carrying small American flags. Why? I don't know. Perhaps some victory in the Spanish American War, or the signing of the Peace Treaty, or the Fourth of July.

## Will the *Real* Dorothy Hunt Please Stand Up?



Dorothy Hunt

We often say, in the publishing business, that if anything is to go wrong, it will not be trivial. Our most recent issue of *Ramsey County History*, with its history of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, was no sooner off the press and in the hands of its readers — including some 8,000 past and present employees of BCBSM — than we learned that the photograph on page 10 identified as Dorothy Hunt was not Dorothy Hunt at all, but that of Doreen Lindborg.

How did such a thing happen? At some point in the mists of time the photograph of Doreen Lindborg unaccountably found its way into a file bearing Dorothy Hunt's name and there it remained for future researchers and writers to take at face value, as it were.

That this case of mistaken identity should happen



Doreen Lindborg

to someone who played such a key role in the history of BCBSM is most regrettable. Dorothy Hunt, who rose to the position of vice president of actuarial research with BCBSM, started her 29-year career with Minnesota Blue Cross as a statistical clerk in 1944. As the health coverage business grew more complex and competitive, she advanced from clerk to statistician to vice president of actuarial research in 1958. She was the first woman vice president within the national system of Blue Cross plans. After her retirement from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota in 1973, the national Blue Cross Association hired her for a six-year stint as assistant actuary to audit actuarial operations of Blue Cross plans across the country.

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Heman Gibbs



Picking raspberries in Bloomington.



Summer kitchen as it looks today.



Farmers market, probably in Minneapolis, ca. 1900.

The Gibbs Farm Museum, owned by the Ramsey County Historical Society, at Cleveland and Larpenteur in Falcon Heights.



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