



# RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



Fall

1970

Volume 7

Number 2

# Ramsey County History

*Published by the* RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Virginia Brainard Kunz

Fall	W. R. Brown's Civil War Diary The War Within a War	Page 3
<b>1970</b>		
Volume 7	Ramsey County Medical Society Survives Its First 100 Years	Page 14
Number 2	Forgotten Pioneers . . . X	Page 20
	Book Review: History of A Region And A People	Page 22

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY is published semi-annually and copyrighted, 1970, by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota. Membership in the Society carries with it a subscription to Ramsey County History. Single issues sell for \$1.00. Correspondence concerning contributions should be addressed to the editor. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors. Manuscripts and other editorial material are welcomed but, since the Society is an eleemosynary institution, no payment can be made for contributions. All articles and other editorial material submitted will be carefully read and published, if accepted, as space permits.

*ON THE COVER: A field hospital during the Civil War often was literally that, with the surgeons caring for the wounded behind whatever shelter they could find. In this painting by Heisser, from a panorama of the Battle of Gettysburg, surgeons are at work behind a haystack while the battle rages in the field behind them.*

*ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Unless otherwise indicated, pictures used in this issue are from the audio-visual library of the Minnesota Historical Society. The editor is indebted to Eugene Becker and Dorothy Gimmestad, of the state historical society's audio-visual staff, for their help.*

# *The Ramsey County Historical Society*

## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Frank Paskewitz  
*President*

Henry H. Cowie, Jr.  
*First Vice President*

Mrs. Robert B. Mirick  
*Second Vice President*

Mrs. Donald Carlson  
*Recording Secretary*

Mrs. Robert Emahiser  
*Corresponding Secretary*

William E. Scanlan  
*Treasurer*

CURATORS, The Gibbs Farm Museum  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Lettermann

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
Virginia Brainard Kunz

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edward Brooks, Jr.  
Mrs. K. E. Nordquist  
Theodore Horwitz  
Mrs. Robert Mirick  
Albert Beltmann  
James Dickenson  
W. Brooks Cavin, Jr.  
Harold Macy  
Juliette Myren  
Bartlett Baker  
Alan R. Woolworth  
John Baird  
Wallace Boss  
Hayden L. Stright  
Mrs. William L. Mason III  
Stephen A. Osborn  
John Hilbert  
George Bohrer  
Frank Paskewitz  
Richard Vogl  
Mrs. Donald Carlson  
Mrs. Robert Emahiser

## PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Henry Hall, chairman  
Gerald McKay  
Clarence W. Rife  
William L. Cavert  
Bartlett Baker  
Edward Brooks, Jr.

## *THE BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS*

Charles McCarty  
George A. Hardenbergh  
John E. Daubney  
Mrs. Donald M. DeCourcy  
Arthur T. Gibbons

Roy P. Nadeau  
Ed Salverda  
Thomas J. Kelley  
James D. Swan  
Thomas Quayle



*Photo by Henry Hall*

### THE GIBBS HOUSE

*Headquarters of the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota.*

THE Ramsey County Historical Society was founded in 1949. During the following years the Society, believing that a sense of history is of great importance in giving a new, mobile generation a knowledge of its roots in the past, acquired the 100-year-old farm home which had belonged to Heman R. Gibbs. The Society restored the Gibbs House and in 1954 opened it to the public as a museum which would depict the way of life of an early Minnesota settler.

In 1958, the Society erected a barn behind the farm house which is maintained as an agricultural museum to display the tools and other implements used by the men who broke up the prairie soil and farmed with horse and oxen. In 1966, the Society moved to its museum property a one-room rural schoolhouse, dating from the 1870's. The white frame school came from near Milan, Minnesota. Now restored to the period of the late 1890's, the school actually is used for classes and meetings. In the basement beneath the school building, the Society has its office, library and collections. In 1968, the Society acquired from the University of Minnesota the use of the white barn adjoining the Society's property. Here is housed a collection of carriages and sleighs which once belonged to James J. Hill.

Today, in addition to maintaining the Gibbs property, the Ramsey County Historical Society is active in the preservation of historic sites in Ramsey county, conducts tours, prepares pamphlets and other publications, organizes demonstrations of pioneer crafts and maintains a Speakers' Bureau for schools and organizations. It is the Society's hope that through its work the rich heritage of the sturdy men and women who were the pioneers of Ramsey County will be preserved for future generations.