

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Louise and Her Legacy

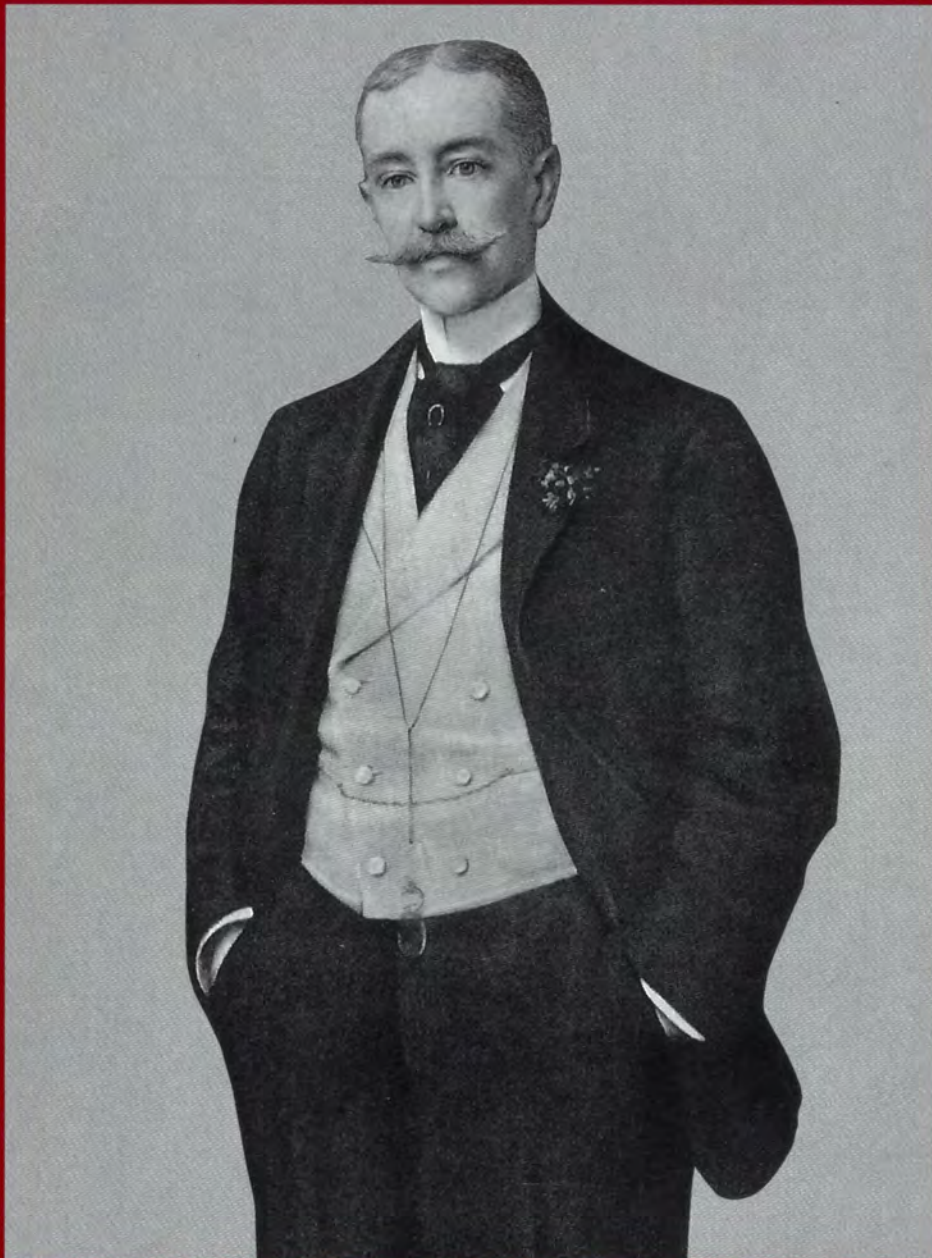
See Books

Page 31

Fall, 1999

Volume 34, Number 3

*Crawford Livingston, Chauncey Griggs
and Their Roles in St. Paul History —Page 4*



Crawford Livingston, from a copy of a portrait, and used by permission of Livingston's granddaughter, Mary Griggs Burke.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY

Executive Director

Priscilla Farnham

Editor

Virginia Brainard Kunz

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurie A. Zenner

Chair

Howard M. Guthmann

President

James Russell

First Vice President

Anne Cowie Wilson

Second Vice President

Richard A. Wilhoit

Secretary

Ronald J. Zweber

Treasurer

W. Andrew Boss, Peter K. Butler, Charlotte H. Drake, Mark G. Eisenschenk, Joanne A. Englund, Robert F. Garland, Judith Frost Lewis, John M. Lindley, George A. Mairs, Marlene Marschall, Richard T. Murphy, Sr., Bob Olsen, Linda Owen, Fred Perez, Marvin J. Pertzik, Vicenta D. Scarlett, Glenn Wiessner, Charles H. Williams, Jr..

EDITORIAL BOARD

John M. Lindley, chair; Thomas H. Boyd, Thomas C. Buckley, Pat Hart, Virginia Brainard Kunz, Thomas J. Kelley, Tom Mega, Laurie Murphy, Vicenta Scarlett, G. Richard Slade, Laurie Zenner.

HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Elmer L. Andersen, Olivia I. Dodge, Charlton Dietz, William Finney, Otis Godfrey, Jr., Robert S. Hess, Fred T. Lanners, Jr., D. W. "Don" Larson, George Latimer, Frank Marzitelli, Joseph S. Micallef, Robert Mirick, Samuel Morgan, Marvin J. Pertzik, J. Jerome Plunkett, James Reagan, Rosalie E. Wahl, Donald D. Wozniak.

RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rafael Ortega, chairman
Commissioner Susan Haigh
Commissioner Tony Bennett
Commissioner Dino Guerin
Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt
Commissioner Janice Rettman
Commissioner Jan Wiessner

Paul Kirkwold, acting manager, Ramsey County

Ramsey County History is published quarterly by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 323 Landmark Center, 75 W. Fifth Street, St. Paul, Minn. 55102 (651-222-0701). Printed in U.S.A. Copyright, 1999, 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. Fax 651-223-8539; e-mail address admin@rchs.com.; web site address www.rchs.com

RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 34, Number 3

Fall, 1999

CONTENTS

3 Letters

- 4 "...no time or sympathy for one who wouldn't work"
Crawford Livingston, Chauncey Griggs and Their
Roles in St. Paul History
John M. Lindley

31 Books

Publication of *Ramsey County History* is 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

Message from Editorial Board

This issue of *Ramsey County History* brings together the stories of two related, and yet different, major figures in the history of St. Paul during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They are Chauncey Wright Griggs and Crawford Livingston. Griggs came to St. Paul from New England in 1856. Crawford Livingston left New York for Minnesota in 1870, and relocated to St. Paul a few years later.

Crawford Livingston was a canny investor who prospered from railroads, utilities, insurance, and land sales. Chauncey Griggs put his money into supplying coal and wood and into transportation, land sales, the wholesale grocery business and, finally, the lumber business. Their habits of hard work and a willingness to seize upon business opportunities helped both to acquire large personal fortunes. The 1915 marriage of one Livingston daughter with one Griggs son meant that their parents' stories became even more intertwined. Today the names of Chauncey Griggs and Crawford Livingston live on in St. Paul in the Crawford Livingston Theatre, in streets named for Griggs and Livingston, and in the Burbank-Livingston-Griggs house still standing on Summit Avenue.

John Lindley, who chairs the Ramsey County Historical Society's Editorial Board, has brought the Livingston and Griggs careers and their families to life. His research on these two business leaders is based on work in more than twenty archives, libraries, and manuscript collections in Minnesota and elsewhere. To do this, he has had the help of many people who have provided information and suggestions along the way, particularly Tom White of the James J. Hill Reference Library; Jim Szevich, an independent historian, researcher, and genealogist of St. Paul; Virginia Brainard Kunz, editor of *Ramsey County History*, and Molly Spillman of the Ramsey County Historical Society staff.

In addition, this project would not have come to fruition if the author had not had the encouragement and support of Patricia Sweney Hart, a Griggs descendant, and Mary Griggs Burke, a Livingston granddaughter. They have been extraordinarily generous in sharing family stories, letters, photos, and ideas about Chauncey Griggs and Crawford Livingston because they wanted others to know how these two men helped to shape St. Paul's history.

Priscilla Farnham, executive director, Ramsey County Historical Society

Books

Louise's Legacy

Edited by Moira F. Harris
St. Paul: Pogo Press, 1999
132 pages, \$15.95 (paper)

Reviewed by Virginia Brainard Kunz

Throughout his lifetime, Theodore Hamm was generally considered responsible for the success of the St. Paul brewery that bore his name. However, there was a strong, supportive woman behind the man and she was his wife, Louise Buckholz Hamm, who held equal authority and deserved equal credit. As Editor Moira Harris points out in her introduction, had Louise Hamm not been willing to work hard, the brewery and its Biergartens would not have flourished as they did.

This is the latest in a set of four books about the Hamm family, the brewery, and its famous advertising. Actually, a prequel to the first three, this volume deals primarily with nineteenth century events from around 1855 to 1894. In a sense, it is a memoir as well. Harris has assembled family accounts recorded and written by family members.

The first section, "Theodore and Louise Hamm: Their Story," is a fragmentary account of family history written by Louise Muller and based upon her interviews with the five "Tantes," the five Hamm sisters, the daughters of Theodore and Louise—Wilhelmina, Louise, Josephine, Marie, and Emma. Louise Muller, who died in 1991, was Marie's daughter. Family stories abound. There was Louise Hamm's Biergarten where she served homesick



Landsmanner inexpensive German dishes she knew how to prepare: Spitzbuben, Spaetzle, Leber Kloss, Kartoffel Kloss, Sauerbraten, Sauerkraut, Speck.

There is an account of the unhappy year—1855—Louise spent in Chicago before joining her husband in St. Paul where she "was horrified to find that the Indians here were not white" and that they painted their skins and wore feathers. When the Civil War broke out in 1861 and Theodore announced he had volunteered for service, Louise protested vigorously. He remained in St. Paul. The California Gold Rush brought another cloud to her horizon. Mesmerized by vivid tales of gold lying in the streams ready for panning, Theodore proposed to set out for the West and he and Louise had their first quarrel

"Theodore Hamm was a philos-

pher," Muller wrote. He realized that he had brought her to a strange country, that he had left her in Chicago to fend for herself, that after coming to St. Paul she had endured all the hardships of pioneer life, and that he had no right to leave her and head for the gold fields with his unmarried friends. He remained behind. Instead, without his wife's knowledge, he mortgaged their home and his wife's Biergarten and, adding all his savings, staked a friend to the trip west. His friend, in turn, gave him the deed to a small brewery on St. Paul's East Side. The friend died, Hamm lost everything, and Louise was beside herself as disaster stared her in the face. But that small brewery marked the beginning of the Hamm Brewery.

Other accounts follow that of Theodore and Marie. "The Press Visits the Brewery" includes lengthy reports and descriptions by reporters from three St. Paul newspapers. Each story takes a slightly different view of the brewery and of Theodore Hamm himself. Photographs of the brewery, its workers, Hamm memorabilia, and copies of some of the more famous ads illustrate this section. Next, Alice Muller Franzen describes "The Rhine Journey," a partial account of a visit to Germany which the Hamms made in 1886. A surprise greeted them on their return to St. Paul. Their son William, who was managing the brewery while his father was away, had hired an architect to design the red brick mansion that remained a city landmark until a fire destroyed it in 1954.

Virginia Brainard Kunz is editor of Ramsey County History.

HILL, GRIGGS & CO.

Successors to J. J. Hill & Co., and Newcombe & Griggs,

DEALERS IN

COAL, WOOD AND BRICK.

A Full Stock of the above Articles
always on Hand.

ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED.

OFFICE AT THE TRANSFER HOUSE,
ON THE LEVEE.

An 1869-1870 ad for Hill, Griggs & Co. See article beginning on page 4.

R.C.H.S.

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Published by the Ramsey County Historical Society
323 Landmark Center
75 West Fifth Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Paul, MN
Permit #3989