

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

Louise and Her Legacy

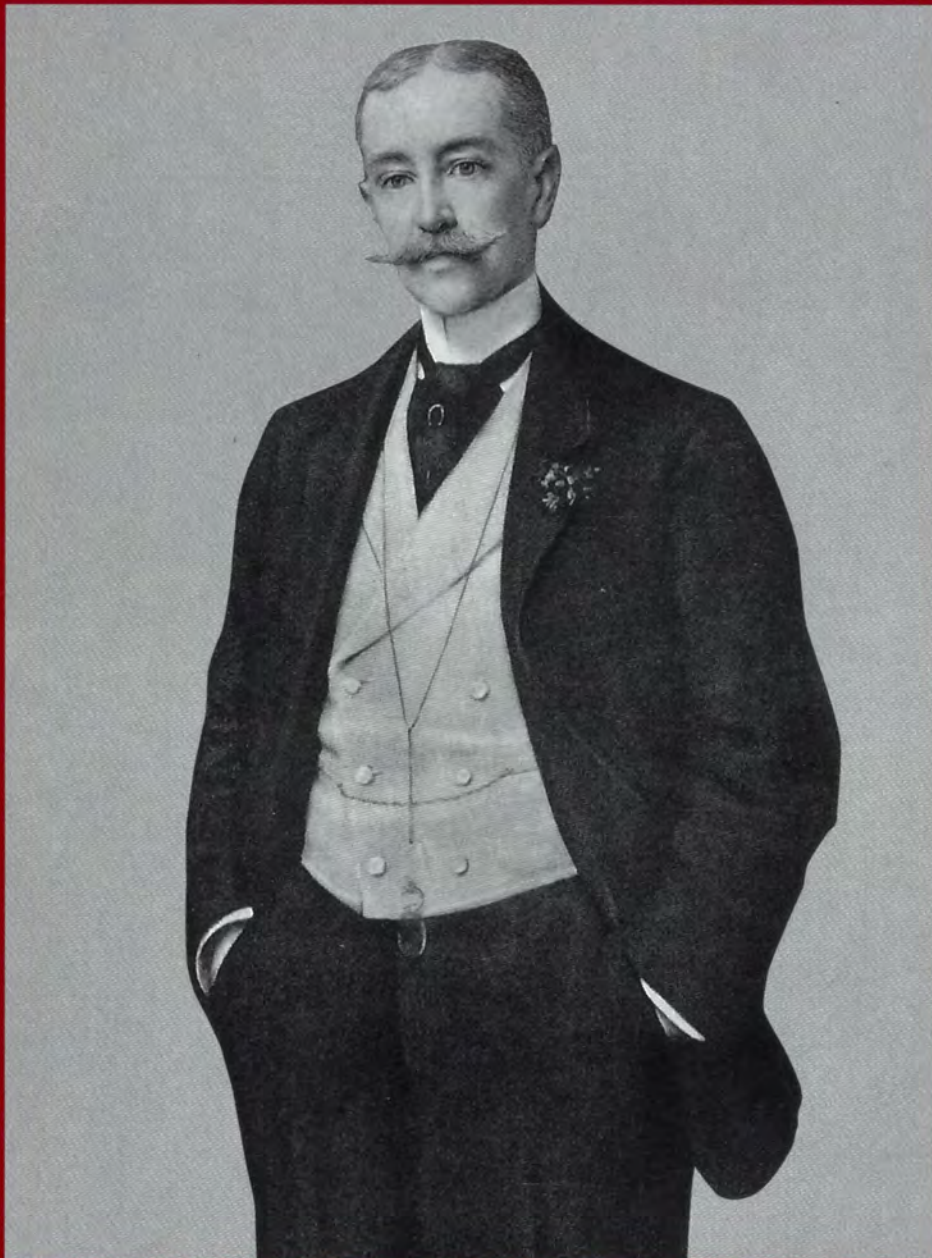
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Fall, 1999

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.

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RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 34, Number 3

Fall, 1999

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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

Letters to the Editor

Wrong Arena

The picture of the St. Paul auditorium on page four of the summer, 1999, issue of *Ramsey County History* is not where the summer Pop Concerts were held. The picture is of the theater section that was on Fifth Street. The ice sheet was in a newer building of tan brick built to the west of the theater section (which would have been to the right side of the picture). The picture on page 7 shows the interior of the newer building.

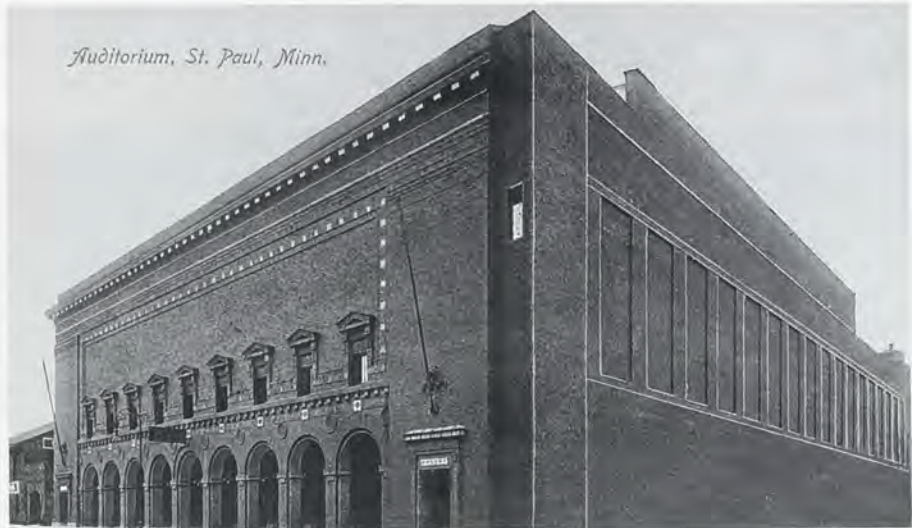
I was executive secretary of the St. Paul Figure Skating Club in the late 1940s and early 1950s when the club was at its peak. We put on approximately eighteen concerts—three per week for six weeks and four or five performances of a two-hour show in the winter featuring top national and international amateur skaters. During my tenure as executive secretary, the Optimist Club sponsored the winter shows.

One of the biggest shows the club staged was in September, 1947, when Barbara Ann Scott from Canada joined the St. Paul champions and other champion skaters to put on a benefit to raise money for the Olympics. Just about all of the national champions came for this show. Also, from time to time the St. Paul Club went "on the road" to do shows in out-state Minnesota and Wisconsin. The professional touring shows resulted from the success of the amateur clubs' skating shows—several other clubs in the United States had annual shows, much as did St. Paul but not to the same extent as the St. Paul Club. I enjoyed the article as a very interesting review of figure skating in St. Paul.

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Another Remnant of Another Era

When I read the article about Growing Up in St. Paul and the Morgan/Baker/



Correction! The summer Pop Concerts actually were held in a newer building to the right of the St. Paul Auditorium, pictured here as it looked in 1908. Minnesota Historical Society photo.

Hollinshead farm that once stood at today's Highway 280 and Interstate 94, I remembered that there was another farm that must have been close by. As recently as the 1960s the old farmhouse was still there about a block north of University Avenue at 280. With its spacious front porch, it truly reminded me of a bygone era. Then it disappeared. I've often wondered what happened to it.

Cecile Watson, St. Paul

That must have been Daniel Hunt's farm. His property shows at the top of the plat map on page 15 in the summer issue of Ramsey County History. Hunt arrived in old St. Anthony in 1857, became a fur trader and survived a perilous mid-winter journey, by dog sled and alone, from Fort Garry, now within Winnipeg, to St. Anthony. Eventually he gave up fur trading, served in the Third Minnesota Infantry Regiment in the Civil War, married Annie Lockwood of St. Paul, and settled down on the farm he established on Old Territo-

rial Road, near Cromwell, in the Midway district. He became a farmer, specializing in strawberries, and a school teacher. Two of his unmarried daughters lived on in the family farmhouse until the house was demolished around 1970 to make way for commercial development.

Early Cemeteries

When was the first cemetery established in St. Paul?

In 1841. St. Paul's first burying ground was established by Father Lucien Galtier, who also established the village's first church and bestowed the name of that church, St. Paul, on the community itself. Other cemeteries and their dates include a non-denominational cemetery that opened in 1849 at Eleventh and Wabasha; a second Catholic cemetery in 1853 at Marshall and Western; Oakland cemetery for non-Catholics, 1853, at the end of Jackson Street; and Calvary cemetery on Front Street, which dates from 1856.

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

R.C.H.S.

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