



# RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



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*On the Cover: The Sibley House at Mendota, home of fur trader Henry Hastings Sibley who was Minnesota's first governor, was in a state of general decay when this picture was taken in 1904. Even so, the old stone house was a favorite gathering spot for such groups as the Native Sons of Minnesota who posed for their picture during their first annual picnic. This and all other pictures on the following pages are, unless otherwise credited, from the Minnesota Historical Society's collection.*

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### THE GIBBS HOUSE

*Headquarters of the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpenteur Avenue W., St. Paul, Minn.*

**T**HE 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 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.

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.