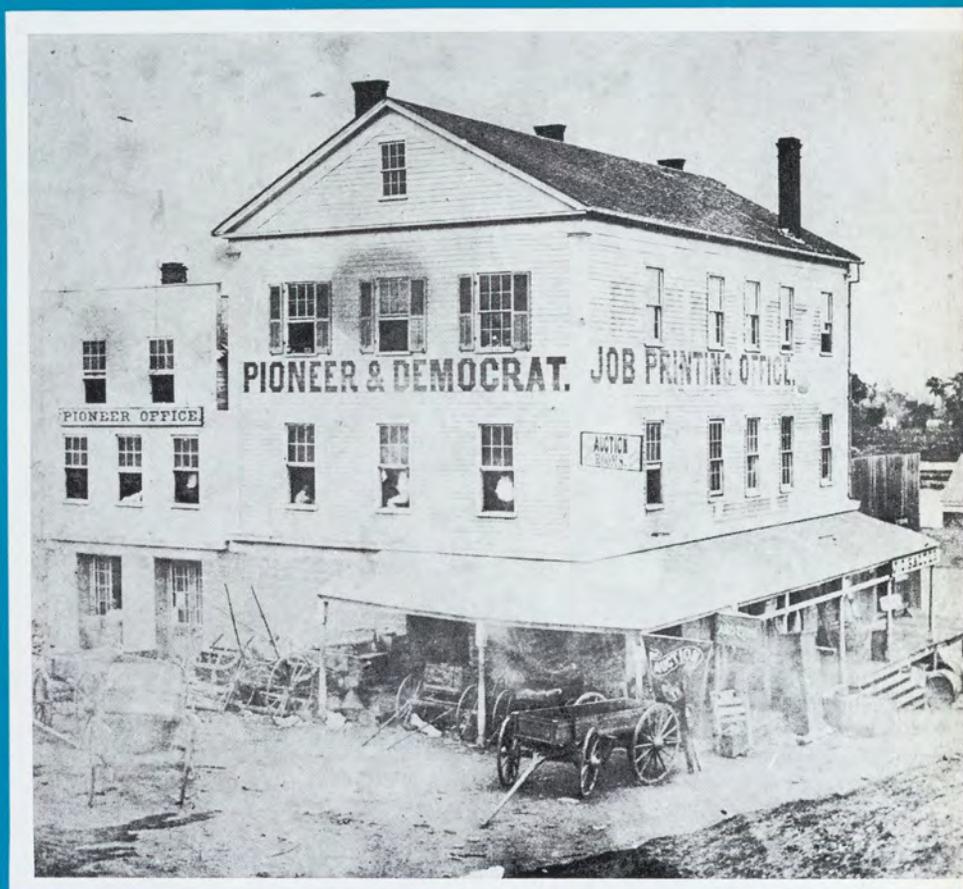
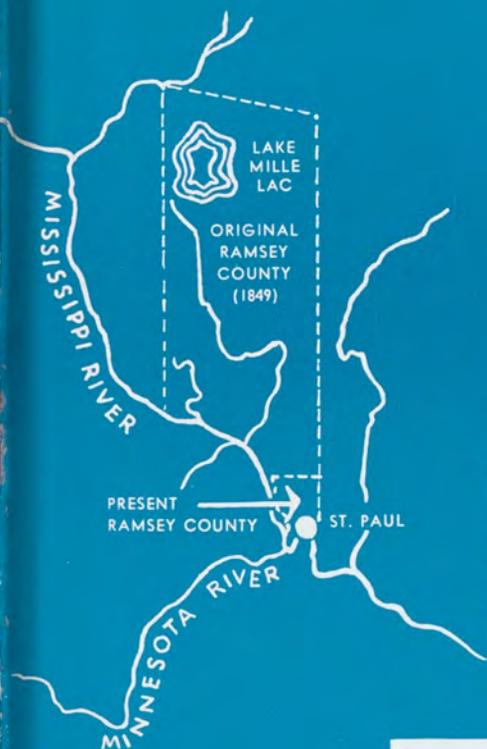


RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



Spring

1966

Volume 3

Number 1

Ramsey County History

Published by the RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Virginia Brainard Kunz

CONTENTS . . .

	St. Paul's Territorial Editors Berneta Hilbert	Page 3
Spring	Minnesota's Early Libel Laws Henry H. Cowie, Jr.	Page 9
1966	Memories of a Rural School Frank Paskewitz	Page 11
Volume 3	Press and Public, 100 Years Ago	Page 15
Number 1	Forgotten Pioneers—I. 1901 Graduate Recalls St. Paul Campus Coates P. Bull	Page 16 Page 18
	A Pioneer Farmer and the Civil and Indian Wars	Page 22

RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY is published semi-annually and copyrighted, 1966, by the Ramsey County Historical Society, 2097 Larpentour Avenue West, St. Paul, Minn. 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: *The Pioneer and Democrat* office, as it looked between 1854 and 1857. It stood on the corner of Third and Jackson Streets.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: *Barbara Owen and Paul Trautman, Macalester College students, for preparing the basic material for the stories on pages 16 and 18, winter interim projects; Nancy L. Woolworth, for additional research, annotation and writing; Dorothy A. Smith, for editing and production help; the Minnesota Historical Society Picture Department for all pictures except those with Mr. Bull's story.*



A Pioneer Farmer and the Civil and Indian Wars

LIFE ON THE frontier required courage, stamina, the ability to adapt and, sometimes, to fight. Men such as James A. Bull, who came to Minnesota in 1858, found themselves caught up in events of the Civil War and the Sioux War of 1862. In the following letter, Bull's son, Coates P. Bull, describes his family's participation in both wars. The following account is typical of the experiences of many Minnesota men of that era. Bull first describes his father's farm at what is now Fiftieth Street and France Avenue, Edina, then continues:

"One day [in 1862] [father] had gone to Minneapolis with produce and to get supplies (7 mi. via wagon road). The soldiers [in Minneapolis] were commandeering every possible conveyance to rush a lot of soldiers to St. Cloud to quell a reported outbreak by [Sioux] Indians.

"[Father] was told that he could go along and drive if he wished but his team and wagon were 'in service' right then. He could not afford to lose the team and/or wagon. What to do? He found Geo. W. Baird, former neighbor across the road . . . [and] told him the circumstances, also [his wife, Mary] was ill. Baird said he would see that all was cared for at home. . . .

"Three days later enroute to St. Cloud the commanding officer told [father] he could go home as word had come down the line that all was quiet at St. Cloud. Also

The area at Fiftieth Street and France Avenue South, now the Minneapolis suburb of Edina, once looked like this. In this lovely scene photographed in 1893 on the Bull farm, the author and his brother, Alvah, are shown "trysting" with friends.

he was given some cash in order to get feed for himself and horses. He arrived home and found things in good shape. Baird had looked after the livestock and Mrs. Baird looked after the welfare of [his wife]. . . .

". . . my mother's brothers and father were in service as follows: [her] father, Milton Cooper, moved to Minn. with his family in 1857—settled in Minneapolis (17th St. Now just back of Catholic Cathedral, Hennepin Ave). Milton *walked* from home to Ft. Snelling and back every day 2 or more years doing carpenter work there (Distance 6 mi. each way). Hoed his garden evenings (by lantern light) and Sundays. Died at the age of 91.

"[Mother's brother] Preston was a 'sharp shooter' and during one battle the Union soldiers were lying down and the 'Rebs' were shooting cannon balls over the area. One of them burst near Preston and ½ of his rump was shattered. He lay in an old shed near by for 2 days before [he was] removed to a hospital, where he recovered and clerked as Estimator in the office of [a] sash and door factory. . . . [In Minneapolis] He died at 91 yrs. of age—just 2 weeks after quitting work." *Letter from Coates P. Bull to William L. Cavert, November 10, 1962.*



THE GIBBS HOUSE

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

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 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.