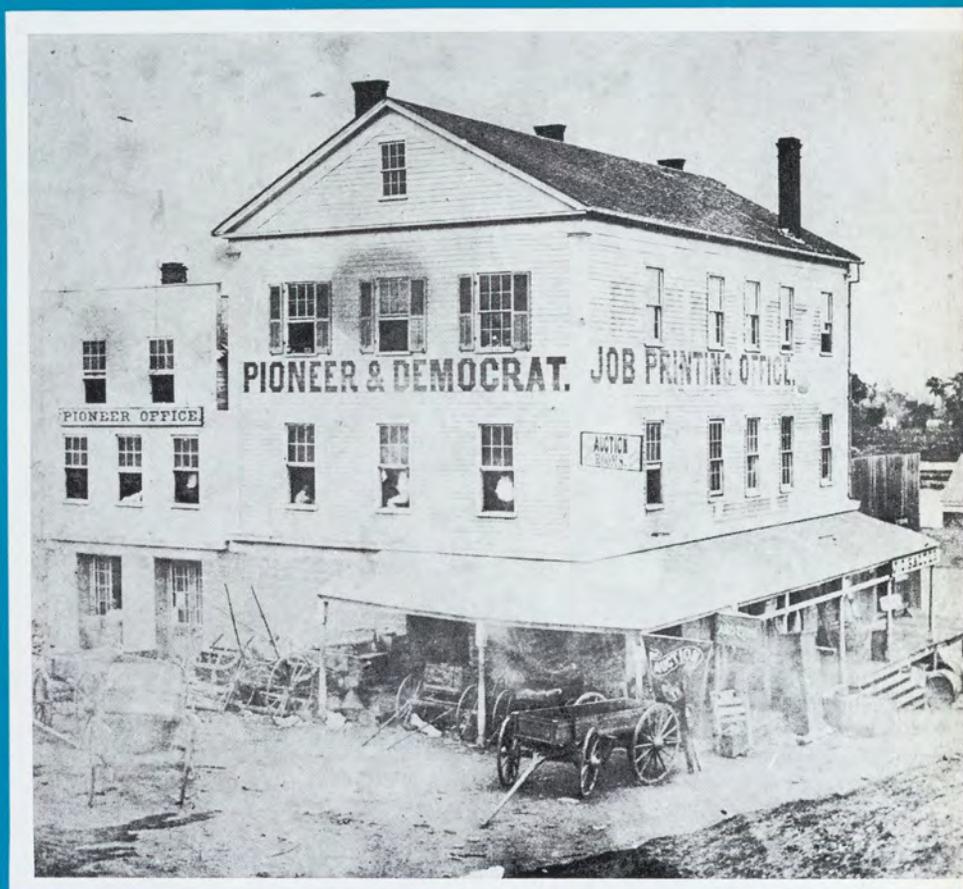
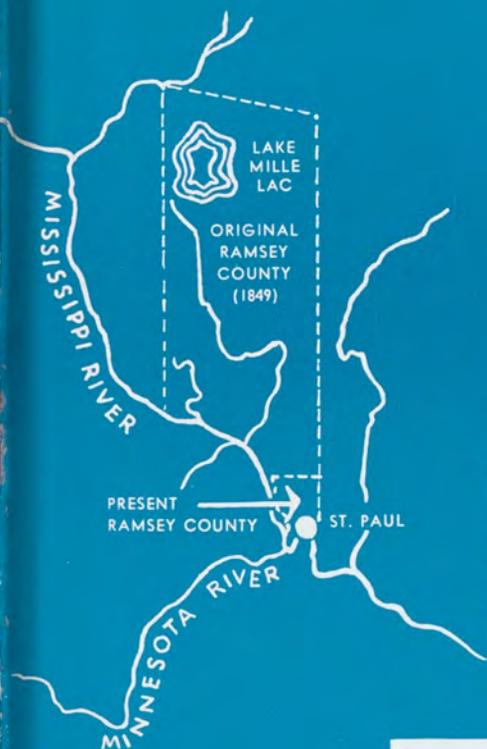


RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORY



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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.*

the other players on its side by this touch system won the game.

IN THE SPRING, we older boys would go down to the creek for a swim at noon. We had an hour for lunch and made arrangements with the teacher to ring the bell half-an-hour before we had to be back in class. We ate our lunch on the way, dropped our lunch buckets and then started dropping our clothes. By the time we got to the creek we were ready to go in.

We must have been hard to discipline at times. We were so rambunctious that we drove one teacher out of our school by spring vacation. The school board asked her to leave because she couldn't cope with us. Then we got another teacher and all the older boys quit school. She was really snappy, a good disciplinarian, and we were far more devoted to her than to the previous teacher.

ONCE WE CAME BACK from the creek with our pockets full of little turtles. We turned them loose in the schoolroom and all the girls jumped and screamed. Of course, at times we whispered and pulled the girls' hair. A standard way of bringing us into line was a switch across the seat of the pants. The teacher sent

someone outside to cut the switch—not the boy who was to be punished. Our sympathies, however, always were with the transgressor.

The one-room rural school, as I knew it, was far more than a place to teach children their "three R's." These schools served as community centers in a land that still was essentially rural.

We had special programs, at Christmas, for example, and on other occasions. Usually these were held in the evening so the entire family could come. The small children gave their recitations and sang. Then the adults often participated, too, by having a debate. Two sides were chosen ahead of time and given the question to be debated so that teams could make some preparation. Each team had five or ten minutes to present its case and then each side had a few minutes for rebuttal. Judges had previously been chosen to decide who won. It was entertaining and educational—adult education and participation that we don't see so much of today.

The one-room rural school is passing from the American scene but it is leaving behind it many memories of a more simple, less complex and, as I remember it, a happy way of life.

The Press and the Public—100 Years Ago

IN CERTAIN CIRCLES, it sometimes has been considered expedient to attempt to woo the press but it is interesting that such an idea took shape long before anyone had heard of "public relations" or "press passes."

Minutes of a meeting of the Minnesota Editorial Association (now the Minnesota Newspaper Association) bear this out. The Association is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. The following paragraphs are taken from the "Synopsis of the First Day's Proceedings" of the association's convention in St. Paul in 1867 and was published in the *Winona Daily Republican* on Feb. 22 of that year:

"A number of invitations were tendered the Convention. They were invited to a banquet at the Merchant's Hotel, given by the city press of St. Paul. An invitation was received from Gov.

Marshall to attend his levee on Thursday evening. Another, to have their pictures taken at Whitney's gallery. A grand sleigh ride around the city was given them by Messrs. Cook and Webb. Ossian E. Dodge, Esq., asked the Convention to visit his house and examine his library, paintings and cabinet of curiosities. They were served with complimentary tickets of the opening concert of the Opera House; also the Imperial Circus. Each member of the Convention was presented with a copy of the Revised Statutes of Minnesota, by the Pioneer Printing Company.

"All of these attentions were received with manifest unanimity and gratification on the part of the Convention and accepted."

—From the records of the Minnesota Newspaper Association.



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.