

# History

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*St. Paul in celebration, 1924. This photo from the Gibson-Wright collection shows St. Paul during the years of labor turmoil that followed World War I. The 1880s city hall-county courthouse is on the left, with the St. Paul Athletic Club beyond it in this view looking east down Fourth Street. See W. Thomas White's account, beginning on page 4, of the 1922 Shopmen's Strike in the Northwest.*



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## A Message from the Editorial Board

**T**he Spring issue of our magazine inaugurates a new feature that focuses on the personal experiences of individuals growing up in St. Paul or Ramsey County. Willard (Sandy) Boyd, who grew up in St. Anthony Park as the son of Dr. Willard Boyd, director of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus, has written the first memoir that begins this new feature.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, Sandy Boyd was president of the University of Iowa from 1969 to 1981. He is now president of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Boyd writes about his youth in Ramsey County during the Great Depression. We learn first hand, for example, what the great droughts of 1934 and 1936 meant to him and his friends. Editorial Board members hope that others will share their experiences with our readers.

—John M. Lindley, chairman, Editorial Board



# Letters to the Editor

## Galtier Honored

The article in the Fall, 1991, issue reminded me of the 100th anniversary celebration in 1941 of Father Lucien Galtier's dedication of the Chapel of St. Paul. In the Spring of 1941, my dear friend, Dr. Powell, a Shriner, suggested a trip to Prairie du Chien to honor Father Galtier. Archbishop John Murray agreed to serve as co-chairman of the event, but only if it would be a civic rather than a church function. We had four cars on the morning Zephyr for 100 men. Archbishop Murray had the railroad wait for him out of Chicago so he could join us. My friend, Father Philip Gordon, the Indian priest, conducted a short prayer service at the grave of Father Galtier. We had a dinner that evening at Campion College. The mayor, the city council, the judges, etc., all joined us. We had a short program at the college and the Burlington picked us up on the way back to St. Paul. Archbishop Murray led the singing of "Casey Would Dance with a Strawberry Blond." All these years later, I am the only participant still alive.

—Paul Villaume, St. Paul

## Remembering Grandfather

The article in the recent issue of *Ramsey County History* caught my interest and brought to mind my grandfather, Henry Galvin. He was born in Ireland in 1830 and emigrated to the United States in 1852. He came to St. Paul in 1855 and in that same year married Mary Mullen. In 1856 he was appointed to the St. Paul police force as one of the "original four" officers of the city. In 1875 he was assigned to the old Union Depot and was still on the force as late as 1886—the oldest policeman in St. Paul and described by an early historian as "a landmark" whose "star always twinkles." He passed away in 1903.

—Dennis R. Scanlan, St. Paul



Postcard view showing Father Lucien Galtier's tomb, lower right corner, in front of St. Gabriel's Church in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

## Help Was There

Hilda R. Rachuy's account of her struggles as a single mother in St. Paul during World War II was both fascinating and touching. It was interesting that in his article in the same issue on Family Service's 100-year history, Thomas J. Kelley described how Family Service, with Catholic Charities and the Ramsey County Welfare Board, helped other working mothers arrange for child care during those difficult years.

—Sandra Lee, Minneapolis

## Capital Question

Weren't there several other attempts to move the capital from St. Paul, besides Joe Rolette's famous caper? I seem to remember reading about other efforts in later years.

—Elinor Abby, South St. Paul.

In 1871, former governor William R.

Marshall told the Old Settlers of Hennepin County that the 1849 Territorial Act had made St. Paul the temporary capital only. The legislature was to select the permanent capital. Marshall opposed St. Paul as the capital. He preferred St. Anthony. He was living there at the time. There were other struggles over the capital's location in 1851, 1869 and 1872.

## The Depot

Who was the architect of St. Paul's Union Depot?

—C. Dudley Brainerd, Minneapolis

Charles Frost of Chicago.

## Who Was Brown?

I was out in Henderson, Minnesota, recently and saw some mention of the fact that the town was laid out by a Joseph R. Brown. Is this the same man who was connected with Brown's Valley, Minnesota, and Brown county? If so, he cut a width swath through the state.

—Edward Axdahl, Minneapolis

It was, and he did. Joseph Renshaw Brown—fur trader, land speculator, legislator, newspaper editor—was one of the state's earliest settlers. At the young age of 14, he arrived in Mendota with the army in 1819 and helped build Fort Snelling. After he traced Minnehaha Creek to its source in Lake Minnetonka, the famous waterfall was known for a time as Brown's Falls. He was editor of the *Minnesota Pioneer* and served in Minnesota's territorial senate. He married the daughter of a Dakota chief and served as an agent for the Dakota people. For more on Brown and a number of other colorful early settlers of his era, see the Fall, 1991, issue of *Ramsey County History*.





*The Hudson's Bay Company Fort at Pembina, now in North Dakota, from the Canadian Illustrated News, 1871. See the article on the Selkirk Colony, beginning on page 23.*

**R.C.H.S.**  
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