

RAMSEY COUNTY  
**History**  
*A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society*

All Under \$11,000—  
The Growing Pains of  
Two 'Queen Annes'

Page 25

Spring, 2001

Volume 36, Number 1

*The Life and Times of Cloud Man*

A Dakota Leader Faces His Changing World

—Page 4



George Catlin's painting, titled "Sioux Village, Lake Calhoun, near Fort Snelling." This is Cloud Man's village in what is now south Minneapolis as it looked to the artist when he visited Lake Calhoun in the summer of 1836. Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Mrs. Joseph Harrison, Jr. See article beginning on page 4.

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# RAMSEY COUNTY History

Volume 36, Number 1

Spring, 2001

## CONTENTS

- 3 Letters
- 4 A 'Good Man' in a Changing World  
Cloud Man, the Dakota Leader, and His Life and Times  
*Mark Dietrich*
- 25 Growing Up in St. Paul  
All for Under \$11,000: 'Add-ons,' 'Deductions'  
The Growing Pains of Two 'Queen Annes'  
*Bob Garland*

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## A Message from the Editorial Board

This issue of *Ramsey County History* opens with a groundbreaking biography and analysis of the Mdewakanton Dakota leader Cloud Man (*Mahpiyawicasta*). Written by Mark Dietrich, an author and historian who has published extensively about Native American peoples in Minnesota in the nineteenth century, this study provides as detailed an account as is possible of Cloud Man's life and his work with the Dakota in encouraging his kinsmen to adopt the farming practices of the white pioneers in the 1830s.

Although the records that survive from this time are fragmented and not as extensive as we would like, Dietrich gives us a compelling portrait of Cloud Man as a leader who truly labored for the best interests of the Dakota people, as he understood those interests. Confronted by the dwindling game population in the area around Fort Snelling and the possible starvation of the Dakota living near Lake Calhoun, especially during the winter months, Cloud Man was willing to try the whites' method of farming. For a brief time between 1829 and 1839, this effort achieved limited success, but Cloud Man's leadership role in this experiment has gone largely unacknowledged. Lieutenant Lawrence Taliaferro, the U.S. government's Indian agent at Fort Snelling, called Cloud Man a "good man." Running through Mark Dietrich's study of Cloud Man is the evidence that confirms that judgment of Cloud Man's character.

The Ramsey County Historical Society thanks the members of the Society's Native American Advisory Board (Gary Cavender, Gavrielle Strong, David Larsen, Linda Owen, Roger Buffalohead, Patty Thompson, Yvonne Leith, Lisa Owen, Dale Weston, Michael Scullin, Angela Cavender, and Leonard Wabasha) for their guidance in publishing Dietrich's manuscript and the helpful comments and observations they made prior to its publication.

Rounding out this issue of our magazine is Bob Garland's delightful account of the "growing up" of two adjacent houses that two members of his family, the brothers William and Field Garland, built at 856 and 846 Fairmount in St. Paul in 1890-91. Using architectural plans, building permits, contractors' invoices, and family papers, Garland takes us through all the changes, both in additions and subtractions, from the original plans that occurred during construction and how these changes affected the final layout and cost of the homes. Today both houses are mature members of the city's housing stock, but they continue to demonstrate the high quality of construction that was routinely done in the 1890s.

*John M. Lindley, Chair, Editorial Board*

# Letters to the Editor

## Who's Who in the Hill Family?

Recently I enjoyed reading Mr. Slade's summer 2000 article in *Ramsey County History* regarding Jerome Hill as "Dilettante, Renaissance Man, Intelligence Officer." Having devoted three years of my life to the research, writing, and editing of a local history book (*Leaves of Gold: The North Oaks Golf Club 1949-1999*, available at the Minnesota History Center), I was particularly interested in the three photos which included Louis Hill, Jr. Yes, three, not two, as mistakenly indicated by your photo captions. Not that I am the photo police. However, the photo duplicated on page 5 was also printed (with permission, of course) in my publication. Matter of fact, it was—in this writer's opinion—the crowning jewel of my long search for ANY photo depicting James J. Hill, Sr., and his grandson, Louis W., Jr.

Thirty-six months of hunting for any such photo had proved fruitless. Yet the absolute necessity of visually connecting these two individuals in my book prompted me to return one last time to the Minnesota History Center. There I found the "roses" photo on which neither of the boys were identified. I prayed that the one nearest J. J. Hill would be L.W., Jr. Both Louis Fors Hill and Mari Hill Harpur identified their father, Louis, to be the boy nearest their great grandfather in the photo. Ta dahhhhh! My search was over. At the twelfth hour I had unearthed the crucial missing last piece to my project.

But don't take my or their words for gospel. Simply turn your magazine to page 6 of that article and see that Louis, Jr., is the oldest, tallest sibling—the same boy nearest J. J. Hill, Sr., on page 5. Matter of fact, now that I look more closely, it would appear that you have made two other photo caption mistakes.



*Let's get this straight. Here again is James J. Hill with his wife Mary, two of his grandchildren and many of his Great Northern Railroad employees at Glacier Park, Montana, in 1913. Louis, Jr., then, is the boy standing next to his grandfather; and the curly-headed youngster next to Louis, Jr., must be Cortland, and not James J. Hill II (Jerome). This photo is from the Hill family archives at the James Jerome Hill Library, St. Paul.*

If indeed Cortland is the youngest, the shortest, the curly-headed one on page 6, then it is Cortland and Louis W. (left to right) on page 5—no Jerome at all. And very likely, it is the curly-headed Cortland—not Jerome—on page 4. Agreed? Thanks for your consideration.

*Kate O'Malley Elfstrom,  
North Oaks, Minnesota*

*Ms. Elfstrom has vividly described the difficulties of researching, writing, and publishing history, especially when confronted with photographs without identifications. To our readers: PLEASE make certain your family photos carry those important identifications. You never know when some historian of the*

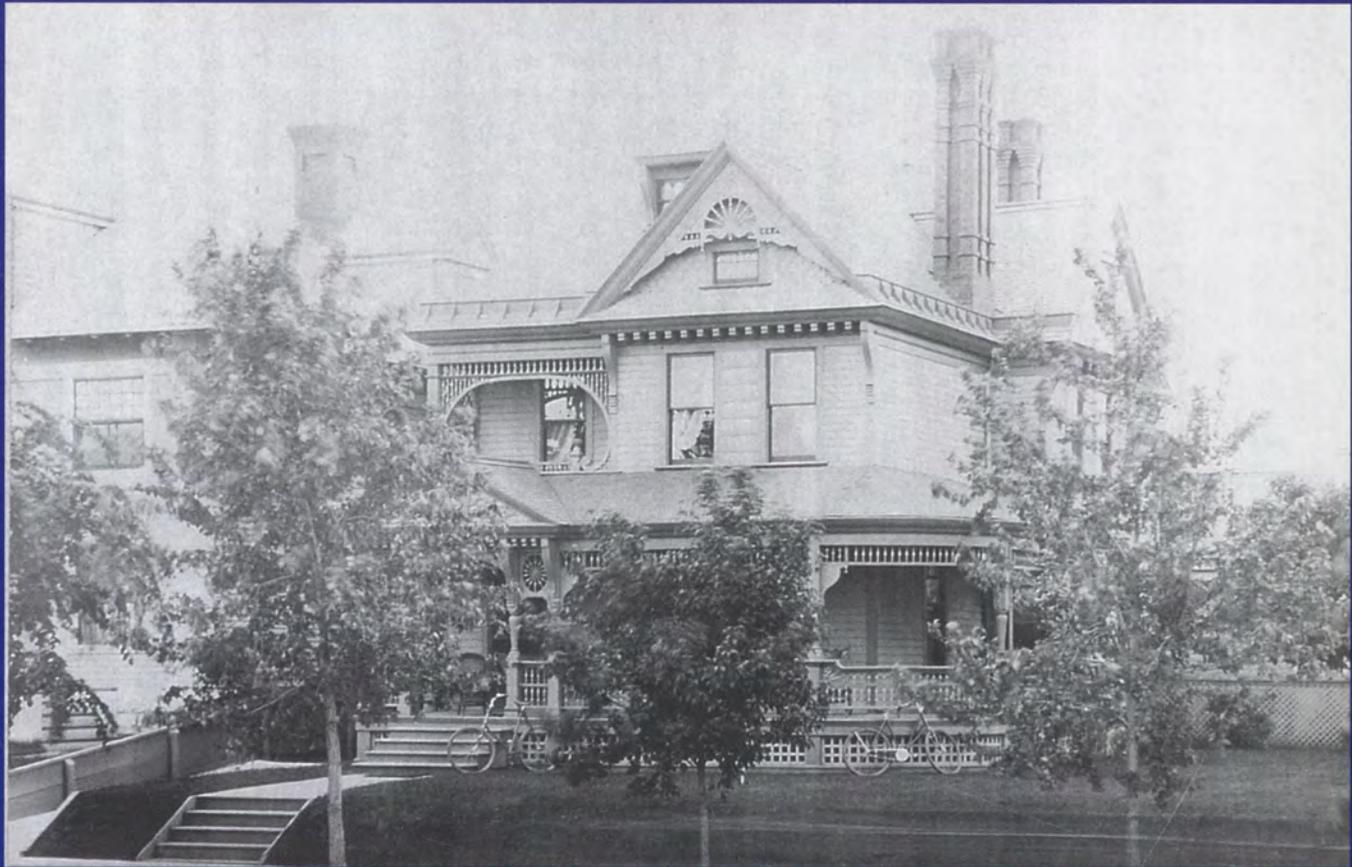
*future will bless you for it. As for us here at Ramsey County History, we're always happy to have our mistakes pointed out to us. It means people are reading the magazine and correcting history.*

## The Oldest House

In a recent *Ramsey County History*, you showed a sketch of a small house labeled "Oldest House in St. Paul" dated 1875. I thought the Dahl House was the oldest house in St. Paul.

*Peter Jenson, New Brighton.*

*The Dahl House, built in 1858 on East Thirteenth Street, is thought to be the oldest "worker's" home still standing in St. Paul.*



*Field Garland's adjoining, and somewhat less elaborate, house at 846 Fairmount. Photo from the author of article beginning on page 25.*

**R.C.H.S.**  
RAMSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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