

RAMSEY COUNTY
History
A Publication of the Ramsey County Historical Society

*The St. Paul Volunteer
Fireman and the Battle
of Gettysburg*

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Spring, 2003

Volume 38, Number 1

An 'Attempt' on His Life?

Sitting Bull's 1884 Visit to St. Paul

—Page 4



Sitting Bull around 1880, just before his 1884 visit to St. Paul. Minnesota Historical Society photograph. See article beginning on page 4 on Sitting Bull's visit and an alleged attempt on his life. Minnesota Historical Society photograph.

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The Society regrets an omission from the 2002 Donor Recognition Roll in the Winter issue of *Ramsey County History*. The list of supporters should have included the name of Albert W. Lindeke, Jr., a generous and loyal supporter. We apologize for this omission.

A Message from the Editorial Board

In 1884 the Lakota Indian leader Sitting Bull visited St. Paul. Our feature article in this issue focuses on the circumstances of his two brief stays in the city that year and whether during the latter visit there was an attempt to assassinate the man who embodied so much of the conflict between the white settlers and the native inhabitants of the American West. This issue also includes Civil War historian Patrick Hill's account of Wilson B. Farrell, a St. Paul volunteer fireman, who gave his life as a member of the First Minnesota Regiment in the Battle of Gettysburg and a brief salute to the sesquicentennial of the founding of St. Paul's Oakland Cemetery, where Farrell is now buried. This issue concludes with Helen Miller Dickison's history of today's Fairmount Methodist Church, Minnesota's first German Methodist church, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2002.

Readers of *Ramsey County History* and anyone interested in the history of Ramsey County and St. Paul now have a new resource for history searches: the Society's web site at www.rchs.com. On the site's home page, the researcher can click on several links that are of value. One is "Ask the Historian," which provides questions and answers about the area's history that recently have come to Society staff members. Another briefly profiles the histories of some of St. Paul's neighborhoods. All the information on this link comes from the Society's *Ramsey County Historic Site Survey Report*, a major resource in the RCHS library. The final link on the Society web page connects the user to information on the contents of the most recent issues of *Ramsey County History* and ties to a complete listing of articles published in the magazine since its initial publication in 1964. We hope this new link will get many hits from users and increase awareness of the richness of the content of our magazine's back issues.

John M. Lindley, Chair, Editorial Board

Letters to the Editor

We Stand Corrected

In the caption for the photograph of the stained glass conservatory windows (below) that appeared on the cover of the winter issue of Ramsey County History, we said the windows had come from James J. Hill's old home on Canada Street in St. Paul's Lowertown district. Wrong! Author Eileen McCormack corrects us. Louis Hill himself ordered the windows specifically for the new house he was building at 260 Summit, as Hill's bill from artist Louis Millet, reproduced here, so clearly indicates.



And Also...

I thought I would call to your attention several minor corrections in the article which appeared about my family in the most recent quarterly issue of *Ramsey County History*. My father's date of birth was 1889, rather than 1899; my own middle initial is "K," and the spelling of the name of my dad's very best friend out on Rice Street was "Fearing."

Alan K. (Buddy) Ruvelson, St. Paul

Photo Research

I'm the new owner of the Roberts



Hamilton Building at 328-330 East Ninth Street in downtown St. Paul. I'd like help in locating old photos and information about the property. I believe it was built around 1885.

Tom Simonetti, St. Paul

Although we are unable to locate the building permit for this structure, our *Historic Sites Survey* suggests that it was built around 1910. It was part of an industrial complex adjacent to the railroad track network in the Phalen Creek-Trout Brook Valley which escaped demolition during the construction of freeways 35E and I94.

House History

I'm interested in researching the history of my house at 873 Fairmount Avenue in St. Paul. I believe the Donnellys lived there at one time.

William C. Moyers, St. Paul

Your address is not mentioned in our *Historic Sites Survey*. You might be interested in searching out the Donnelly family in our collection of Polk's St. Paul City Directories from 1885-1998. The directories list businesses and residents of St. Paul with their occupations, businesses and home addresses. Call us at 651-222-0701 for an appointment to work in our library.



"Little Sure Shot," Annie Oakley. Photograph from the Annie Oakley Foundation Collection, Greenville, Ohio. See article beginning on page 4.

R.C.H.S.

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