

**A History of the  
City of  
Ramsey, Minnesota**

# *The History of Ramsey*



Researched, written and published as a Bicentennial project in 1976.

By Jean James



## *Acknowledgements*

"Illustrated Historical Atlas, State of Minnesota, 1874"

"Atlas & Farmers Directory of Anoka County, Minnesota", published by "The Farmer", a Journal of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minn., Webb Pub. Co., Publishers.

"Goodrich's "History of Anoka County" – Albert M. Goodrich (1905)

"History of Upper Mississippi Valley" – J. Fletcher Williams (1880)

Anoka County Historical Society, Minnesota State Historical Society, George Atwood, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Warneke, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Walton, Mrs. Charles Perkins, Mrs. Leslie Gillund, James Thurston, Miss Ruth Stake, Anoka County Union, Ramsey City Council.

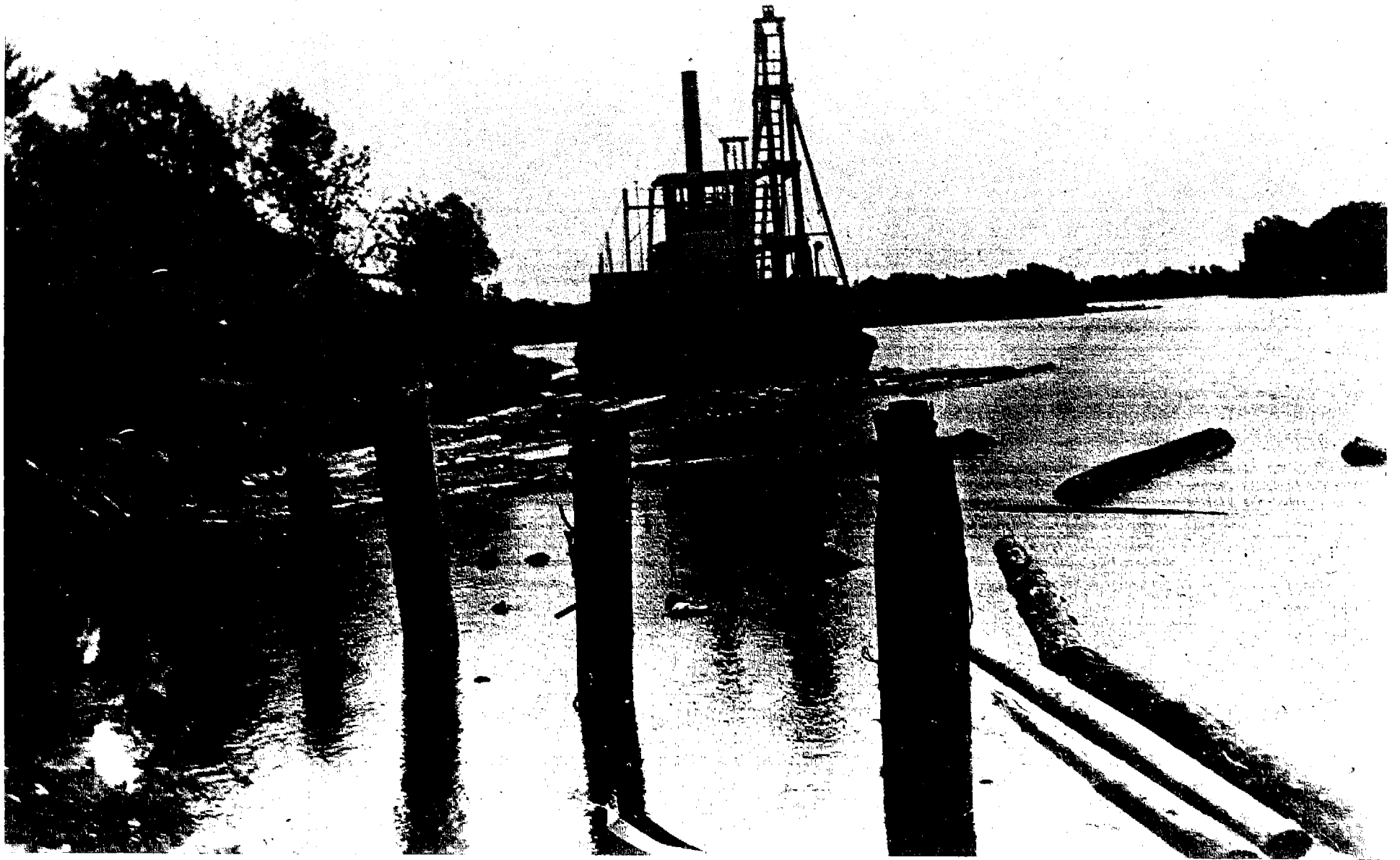
Photos by D. C. Chandler and Anoka County Union.

Early Itasca pictures taken from glass plates, courtesy of Harry Warneke.





*Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Perkins on their golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Perkins was Alice Varney, daughter of Isaac Varney one of the first settlers in Ramsey. Isaac Varney and his wife the former, Helen Sinclair, were the first white couple married in Anoka County, and were married in Ramsey, July 3, 1856.*



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*A steamboat coming into the harbor at Itasca Village.*

## *Ramsey's Firsts*

- The first colony settled in Anoka County was Itasca in Ramsey.
- The first white child born in Anoka County was in Ramsey.
- The first marriage of a white couple in Anoka County was in Ramsey.
- The first sermon preached in Anoka County was in Ramsey.
- It has been said that the first post office in Anoka County was at Itasca in Ramsey, but there is claim now to one at Manomin (now Fridley) 20 days earlier.
- One of the first schools was in Ramsey.
- The first breaking of land for farming was in Ramsey.

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The township was organized in 1857 and named Watertown but changed by the Anoka County Commissioners to Dover, Nov. 15, 1858 and later that year changed to Ramsey for the man who was Territorial Governor.

Ramsey township, now City, on the south and west border of Anoka County has a rich and interesting history that includes a period when it contained the first permanent settlement in this area. Although nothing remains to remind present generations that the almost forgotten townsite of Itasca (or Itaska) was once considered a contender for the Minnesota territorial capital, the fact is well known to those interested in local history. In the more than 125 years of history, Ramsey has many times been on the verge of developing into a large urban center and this has never been more true than at the present. Industry, commercial development and considerable residential building have come during the past years and will continue. Its location on railroad, highway and river makes it one of the more desirable places for future growth.

Ramsey is located in the southwestern part of Anoka County. It had an area of 21,000 acres, now reduced to 19,851 acres following the annexation of part of Ramsey by the City of Anoka. The Mississippi river borders the south of Ramsey, the Rum River is on the east. Trott Brook flows in an easterly direction across the northern part. Several lakes still exist, others previously in existence having disappeared.

## *Trading Posts*

In the fall of 1849 John R. Bean and John Simpson established a camp on the island called Cloutier's island in the Mississippi opposite the present City of Ramsey, for the purpose of trading with the Winnebago Indians. They carried on a successful trade and the next spring built a log house on the mainland near the river upon what was later the farm of C. G. Richardson.

Thomas A. Holmes and James Beatty visited the trading post on the island, observed a thriving business, and determined to secure a share of the trade. They built a log house the same fall (1849) on section 19, (the Warneke farm) and put in a stock *of goods for trading with the Winnebagoes.*

The Winnebagoes were an offshoot of the Sioux tribe and all of the Indians were aware of the fact. They were settled upon land which had been obtained as a concession from the Chippeways. But race prejudice was so strong among them in petty disputes between the two large tribes they were constantly inclined to side with the Sioux. The Winnebagoes hastily transferred their families or a large number of them from Long Prairie to Itasca, where they dug deep pits and threw breastworks on a piece of ground covering several acres, upon what was afterward the farm of Charles E. Bowers, now the Reinhard Pearson farm. These pits were circular and used principally as shelter for squaws and papooses. The spot was upon a steep bank of the Mississippi and commanded a view of the river from both directions. The earth works were plainly visible for years after. The trouble was finally settled and no battle took place.

The old log cabin built for a trading post was later moved to section 31, Burns township. Holmes and Beatty were later succeeded by other traders, Isaac Marks and David Fuller.

## *The First Permanent Settlement*

In the spring of 1850 the first permanent settlement or colony in the County of Anoka was made in Ramsey by a group from the eastern states. Among these was Daniel Harthorn, Jon, Emerson and Penuel Shumway Sr., and Cornelius Pitman with their families and Nathan Shumway and Ever Harthorn. The last two were single and made the first trip to spy out the land. Nathan Shumway erected a log house where the Hanson home later stood (across from the Sherwin Schenk farm). This was the fifth house built in Anoka County.

The rivers were very high. Robert's ferry across the Rum River near the mouth, had not progressed beyond the row boat stage, and when some of the new settlers attempted to cross, the boat was upset. Mr. Pitman, being unable to swim, came near drowning, but finally reached the shore with no more damage than a thorough wetting and the loss of his hat.

In June the families of the colonists arrived on the steamboat Governor Ramsey. The new comers landed opposite the residence of I.A. Harthorn, the Mississippi being bank high at that point, and proceeded to the house of Nathan Shumway. One small log house proving rather inadequate for the shelter of eight men and six women, to say nothing of the children, some of the colonists were obliged to sleep out of doors the first few nights. The men at once began erection of houses. Emerson Shumway built a house where the Greenberg Garage is now and John Shumway built on the riverbank in front of it, near what was then the steamboat landing. Ever Harthorn erected a house on what was afterward known as the F. A. Edgarton place, Penuel Shumway built where Herbert Wilson's house stood and Cornelius Pitman built his house where his son, A. I. Pitman later lived (on Industry Drive).

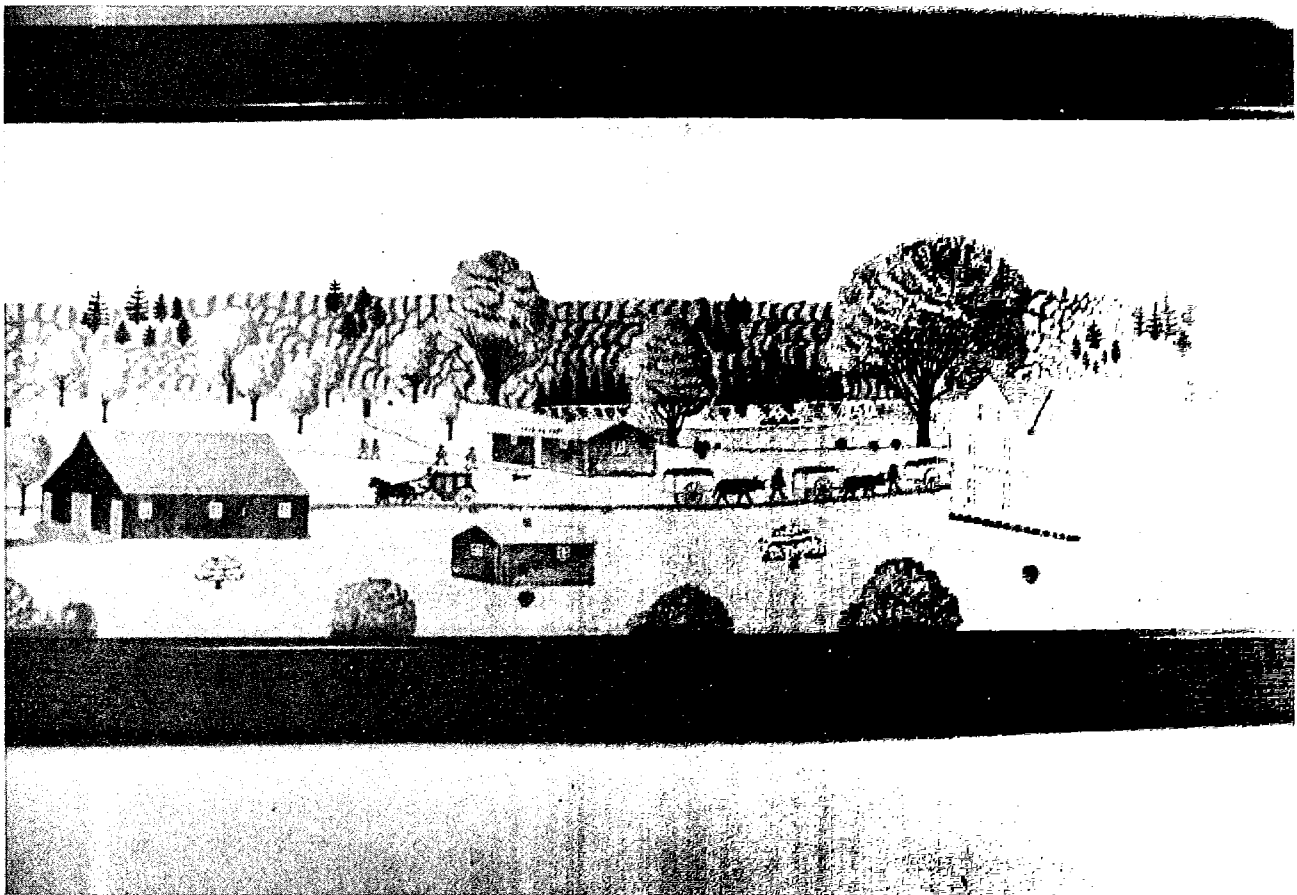
A week after their arrival John Shumway and his wife were both taken sick with typhoid fever. The nearest physicians were at St. Anthony, and the settlers were inclined to be skeptical of the qualifications of frontier physicians. Mrs. Shumway, a skillful nurse, directed as best she could the treatment which should be given to her and her husband, and both recovered.

The first white child born within the limits of Anoka county, so far as was known was Fernando Shumway, a son of Penuel Shumway, Jr. who was born March 22, 1851. His mother died July 9, 1851 and Rev. Charles Secomb from St. Anthony preached her funeral sermon. This was the first sermon in Anoka county.

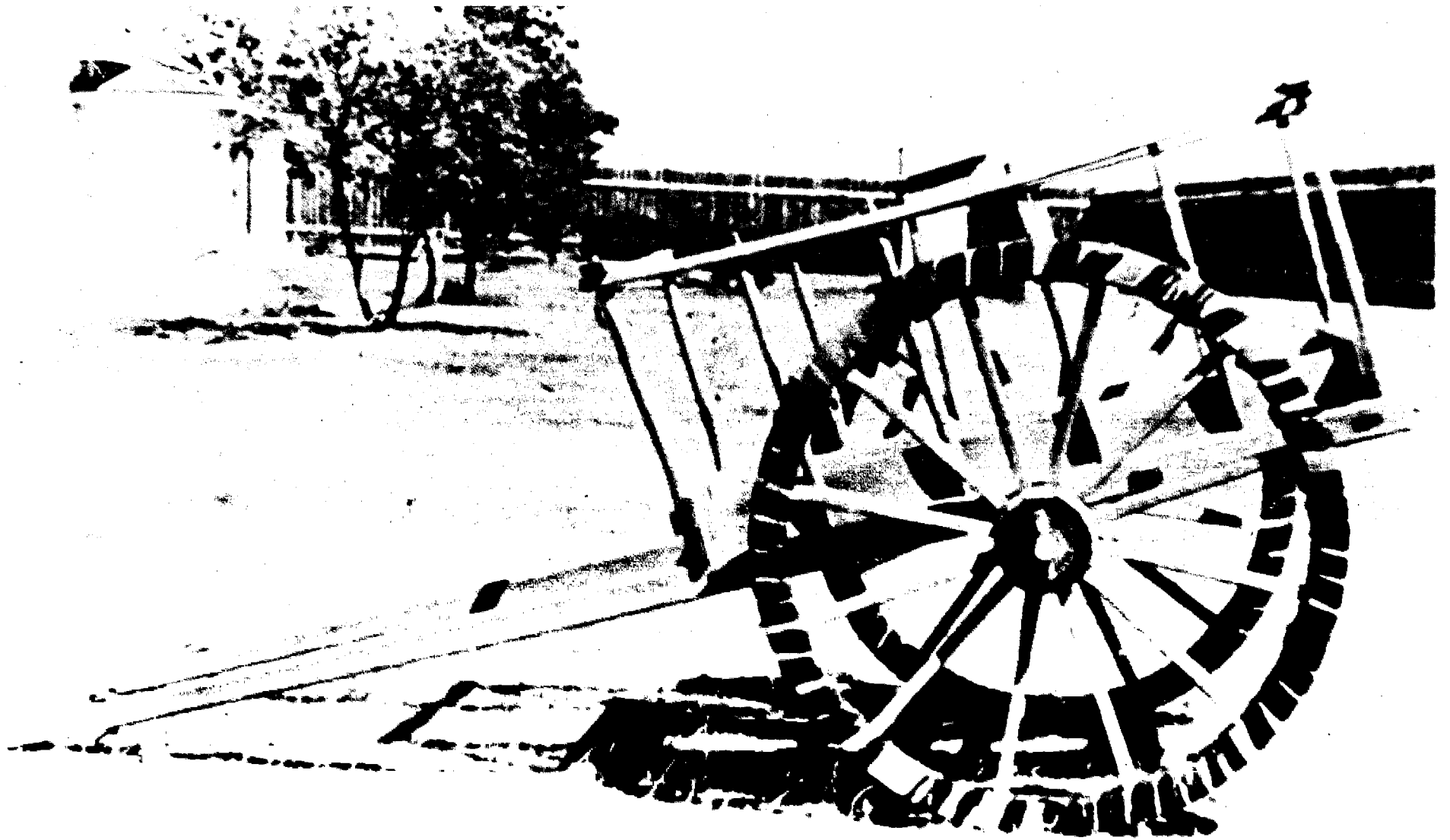
## *Itasca Village*

During 1852-53 settlers began to arrive in the vicinity of the trading post and among these were J. C. Bowers, William Vincent and Thomas Miller.

In 1852 the town site of Itasca was laid out on sections 19 and 30 in Ramsey, near the trading post. The proprietors were Hatch, Beatty, Wilkinson and Ramsey, whose name was later given the township. One of the famous old buildings built by the group was the Itasca Hotel. Itasca also boasted besides the hotel, several houses, trading post, stage coach barn, railroad station and post office. The first government wagon road which was established in 1852 passed through Itasca, coming from Point Douglas, St. Paul, St. Anthony and Anoka then further north to Fort Ripley. The stage coaches traveled this trail and in mid-July, 1855, 300 Red River Ox Carts passed through here on their way to St. Paul with their loads of furs and pemican.



*A painting of Itasca Village by George Atwood as described to him by Mr. Harry Warneke.*



*A Red River ox cart. Many of these traveled along the trail between Texas Village and the Mississippi River.*

Ramsay Oct 8 - 1844  
Seal District No 38  
In the Town of Ramsay  
Anoka County to  
Wm Harvey dr  
to 3 days work building  
Chimney \$3-00

Received Pay  
Wm Harvey





*Farming in Ramsey in the early 1900's.*

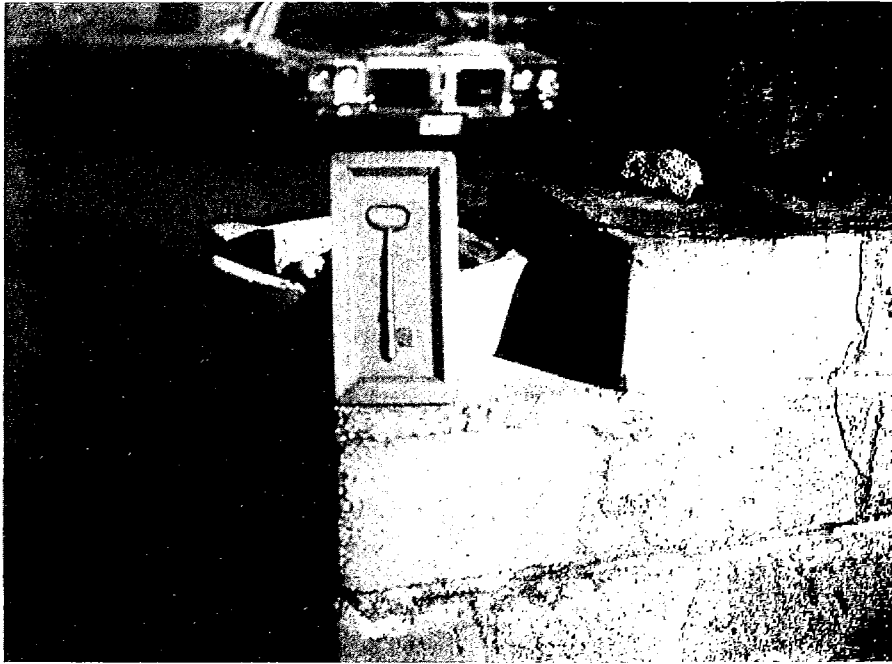


*The center part of this building was the original Itasca Hotel.*



*The Warneke family in front of the Itasca Hotel.*





*The original key to the Itasca Hotel, held by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Warneke.*





# ANOKA STREET FAIR Sept. 10, 11, 12.

After ten days return to  
C. W. LENFEST, County Treasurer,  
ANOKA, MINN.

*A. Luthi*

*Demarest Minn*



*Mail addressed to Demarest, Minn.*

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT.

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



*Albert Luthi  
Demarest; Anoka Co  
Minn.*

If not delivered in 10 days return to

**[REDACTED]** Geo. J. Goodrich  
County Superintendent of Schools,  
ANOKA, - MINN.



1899

Albert Luthi,

Demarest Anoka Co.,  
Minn.

## *Postoffice*

The post office was established at Itasca in May, 1852. Later a post office was set up on the Frank Demarest farm (the present Harold Hunt farm). This was not a town but mail was received addressed to Demarest, Minnesota.

James Beatty was the first postmaster at Itasca, serving until August 1, 1854. Beatty had charge of a stopping place there and ran a trading post. He was a member of the legislature in 1854. Julius Lane succeeded him and served as postmaster from August 1, 1854 till May 12, 1855 when John C. Bowers was appointed. Mr. Bowers was the father of Charles E. Bowers, the grandfather of Warren, Walter and Fred Bowers. September 23, 1859, he was succeeded by Mrs. Margaret Faucett, and she by Theodore R. Shaffer.

When the post office was established at Itasca in 1852, Ramsey, Hatch, Beatty and Wilkinson and others who owned land in the vicinity made a determined effort to remove the state capital from St. Paul to Itasca, and the bill seemed likely to pass, but by some smart maneuvering the bill is said to have been placed in hiding by its enemies until the legislature had adjourned.

The removal of the Indians in 1856 took away the chief support of the village, and after the bill to move the capital failed, Itasca dwindled, while Anoka grew. It was inconvenient to get mail at Itasca. During the fall of 1853 Mr. Larned used to get the mail at St. Anthony and carry it in his hat. Some time that winter (1853-54) a post office was established at Anoka and George W. Branch was named postmaster.

When Itasca was established it was in Benton county, everything west of the Rum River being in Benton county and everything east of the Rum was Ramsey county.

During Mr. Bowers term as postmaster, Anoka county was organized and so both Mrs. Faucett's and Mr. Shaffer's appointments named Anoka instead of Benton county as the home of Itasca.

The last postmaster to serve there was Ashball H. Weldon who was appointed Jan. 13, 1879. The office was discontinued August 13 of that year.

According to an article which appeared in the Jan. 8, 1930 Anoka County Union from facts in departmental records in Washington, D.C., Itasca was not the first post office in Anoka county but the second. Manomin, later called Fridley, established the first post office on March 4, 1852, twenty days prior to Itasca.

# *"Early Ramsey Township"*

as written by Daisy Porter Bradley

During the winter of 1852, fifteen hundred Indians camped for the winter on the west shore of the Mississippi River, directly across the river from the present Porter and Cutter homesteads.

With scouts camping on the east side of the river, many Indian relics have been found on the Porter farm. The trail, that up to this time had led close along the river-bank, was changed that winter. It then led away from the Mississippi and went out through what is now the Dr. Frank farm and crossed Ramsey about on the line of what is now the "Old State Road" (County Road 5) and came back nearer to the river over what is now the Foster farm.

The more timid white folk followed a hard trail up the east side of the Rum River and fording the river farther north came back to the Mississippi through what later became Burns township.

At this time the country to the north was a regular forest, very thick heavy timber, hunting and fishing excellent. The only buildings were three log cabins on what is now the Foster and Bryant farms, (approximately where DeZiel's restaurant now is) but they were destroyed that winter by the Indians.

At this time there was no ferry across the Rum River and everybody had to ford the river. Those on foot had to wait for a covered wagon if the log raft happened to be on the opposite shore. Sometimes the wagon would be too heavily loaded then the man who was carrying his family provisions, loaded them in on top of the wagon and swam and waded across.

Richard and Jane Porter came to Minnesota and St. Anthony trading post in the spring of 1852 and lived in a log house on what is now the Bryant farm. Mr. and Mrs. William Payne lived in part of the cabin and for weeks and months on end, part of the family kept watch through night while others were sleeping.

One incident which happened is interesting. One day the Indian ponies were missing and they were sure the white men had taken them. So a great number of them came crowding into the Porter cabin all talking angrily. Jane Porter on seeing them approaching had hidden her little daughter back of a door and just in time as the Indians came crowding into the room. Mrs. Porter kept stepping back in the direction of the wood box. They kept saying that the white men had taken their ponies and

she kept telling them the ponies just went over the hill and were eating grass as they went, that they had gone off and were not stolen. Finally one stepped up with a long knife and drew it across her throat. She said she did not dare to show fear but with a quick step back she was at the wood box and had a stick of wood in her hand. Indians admire bravery in any way, so with very great vehemence she succeeded in driving them from the cabin. By that time the ponies were in sight. In the meantime the sister who was there had fainted. This sister was Mrs. William Payne, the mother of Alice Payne Taylor and Florence Payne Webster.

The family then moved to Paynesville, Minnesota and were driven out by the Indians at the time of the Indian outbreak and escaped with their lives. Mrs. Lunette Porter Hall was born in Paynesville.

The first Sunday School of Ramsey was organized and conducted by Captain Cady, and was held in the school house.

The first cemetery was located in section 27, range 25.

There are four pioneer families whose families still reside there; J. W. Wilson, Wallace Patch, Clarence Porters and the Bowers family who still own the farm but who live in town. The Clark family came to Ramsey in 1862 and it was Gilman Clark who took the present farm of the Clarks as a claim and members of the family have lived there always since.

All of the Wilson family was born in Ramsey and some of them have always lived there. Sardon Wilson, Louis Carpenter, Richard B. Porter entered the Civil War at the same time from this township. Four generations of the Wilson family attended school here.

In the summer of 1865 the Great Northern railroad had been completed as far as the George Foster farm corner.

Another pioneer family of Ramsey was the Littlefield family who came to settle in this community at a very early date, in fact there was only one other home on the trail and that was on the bank of Trott Brook where the Bergslien family now live. Mr. Willard W. Littlefield of the family still lives in Ramsey and on the farm adjoining the farm his father owned in the early days.

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It is not known just when the above article was written, but from the names mentioned as living in Ramsey, it had to have been some time ago.

# *Organization of Ramsey*

The town of Ramsey was organized in 1857 as Watertown, changed to Dover, and in 1885 to Ramsey. The name Ramsey was chosen in honor of the first territorial governor of Minnesota. The first officers were: supervisors, Jared Benson, chairman, Isaac Varney and Cornelius Pitman; clerk, David Whiting; treasurer, William Tennyson; collector, Joseph C. Varney.

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## *Election Notice*

(Taken from the 1858 Files)

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters in the town of Watertown (comprising the whole to township 32, range 25 west) that an election will be held at the house of Barnabas Allen in said town on Saturday, October 2nd, 1858 to elect: three supervisors, one to be designated chairman; one town clerk; one assessor; one overseer of the poor; two constables; two Justices of the Peace; as many overseers of the highways as there are road districts in the town.

Which election will be opened nine o'clock in the morning and continue open till four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

Signed by                      G. W. Putnam  
    Reg. of Deeds

Anoka Sept. 14, 1858, Anoka Co. Minn.

\* \* \* \* \*

At a meeting of the legal voters in Township 32, Range 25 west in the County of Anoka held pursuant to the above notice on the second day of October A.D. 1858 at the house of Barnabas Allen in said Town. The following proceedings were had. The meeting was called to order by Cornelius Pitman, whereupon Joseph C. Varney was chosen chairman and D. M. Whitney clerk protem. Jedadiah Varney was then chosen moderator, then proceeded to choose three Judges of election by acclamation. Joseph Trott, Cornelius Pitman and Alfred Foster were chosen said Judges of election, then proceeded to choose the officers for the Town provided by law.

Voted to divide the Town into 4 road districts to be numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 commencing in the North East corner of the town. Overseers of Highway, William

Tennison, district No. 1, Paul Goff, district No. 2, J. H. Henderson, district No. 3 and Daniel Harthorn, district No. 4. The meeting adjourned until two o'clock. Meet pursuant to adjournment voted that the name of the Town be called Dover.

Whole number of voters for Supervisors thirty-two (32) Jared Benson of Chairman, thirty (30), Tret Bryant two (2), I.C. Varney, thirty-one (31), Cornelius Pitman thirty-one (31), W. Tennison, one (1); whole number of votes for Town Clerk thirty-two (32). D. M. Whitman had thirty-two (32). Whole number of votes for Assessor thirty-two (32), Alfred Foster had thirty-two (32). Whole number of votes for Collector, thirty-two (32). M.C. Varney had thirty (30), B. Allen two (2).

Whole number of votes for overseer of the poor thirty-two (32). Moses Brown had thirty-two (32). Whole number of votes for constable thirty-two (32). A. McLeod had thirty-two (32) and B. E. Shumway had thirty-two (32). Whole number of votes for Justice of the Peace, thirty-one(31) and thirty-two (32). Joseph Trott had thirty-one (31) and B. F. Downs thirty (30), S. Littlefield one (1), W. M. Whitney one (1).

Voted that the next town meeting be held at the house of Cornelius Pitman. Adjourned without date.

D. M. Whitney  
Clerk of the Meeting

<i>Population Growth</i>			
1860	----	192	1920 ---- 609
1870	----	265	1930 ---- 522
1880	----	387	1940 ---- 583
1890	----	398	1950 ---- 670
1900	----	490	1960 ---- 1179
1910	----	601	1975 ---- about 8,000





## *Ramsey Union Church*

The first church was built in Ramsey in 1888 or 1889. A. J. Smith who owned land and lived where DeZiels Cafe now stands gave land for the church which was built across the highway from the Smith farm. It remained in this location until 1939 when the highway was widened and the church was moved across the highway to the north side.

Those instrumental in soliciting funds and aiding in the construction of the church included, W. B. Wilson, Lewis Carpenter and sons, Alfred Bryant, A. J. Smith and others. John Smith, son of A. J. Smith was a minister and preached in this church for some time.

H. A. Bradeen was superintendent of the Sunday School. Later members of the Baptist Church of Anoka became interested and James Berry and his sister, Helen, became Sunday School teachers, and Harvey Pryor was superintendent.

Some of those who attended were: Mrs. John Herman and daughter, Mary; Mrs. Richard Jude and daughter, Ethel, and son, Charles; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Woodbury and Mrs. Woodbury's brother and family, the Frank Crogins; Mary Jedlicka and daughter, Maude; Alice Hellet (Mrs. Leon McLauflin); Mrs. Charles McLauflin; Walter and Ozro Hall and sister, Myrtle; Henry Wilson; Watt and Allen Thomas and sister, Addie; George Steins and others.

The church ceased to function as death claimed some, many moved away and others joined a church in Anoka. After this the building had another use which is explained in the chapter on the Ramsey Farmer's Club.

## *Ramsey Farmers' Club*

In 1909 an organization known as the "Literary Society" was formed by a group of some 30 Ramsey farmers and their families. Its aims were community improvement and social "get-togethers". James Wilkinson was the first president and meetings were held in the Ramsey Union Church.

About 1915 the first county agent, L. O. Jacob, was named and farmers' clubs became popular with many being organized. The Ramsey group then changed its name to the "Ramsey Farmers Club", members and purposes remaining the same. Mrs. W. B. Wilson who was still living and had the deed to the Union Church presented it to the Farmers Club who owned the building until 1963 when it was sold.

With money earned through community projects, the building was improved by the Club, and here families and neighbors met on the second Friday of each month. These gatherings were appreciated during the war years when many boys were in service and members met and compared notes. The clubhouse was always open for religious services.

Membership grew to about 100 and a 4-H club was organized. Other activities included booths at the Anoka County Fair and booths at the state fair, picnics, wedding anniversary celebrations, bridal showers, and social events for young and old. Members were active in organizing and building the first farmers' telephone line in the area.

Membership dwindled to about 20 and meetings were later held in members' homes.

In addition to James Wilkinson other presidents have included, Clinton Doty, Fred Sachs, Ed Harvey, John Overbaugh, Henry Wilson, Will Schenk, Ed McArdle, Guy McFee, Clifton Clark, Sherwin Schenk, Walter Scroggins, Harry Warneke, Ralph Etienne, Dave Goddard and Einar Larson.

## *Ramsey Sunshine Club*

"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" has been the motto of the Ramsey Sunshine Club since it was organized in 1911.

The eleven charter members founded the club with community welfare in mind. Over the years meetings have been held in members' homes every third Thursday of the month.

The club has aided many needy families, giving food and gifts and preparing baskets during the holiday season.

For several years meeting topics included "American Homes" and "International Relations". The club slogan was "A Flower Bed for every Home".

There were numerous social activities and each November a dinner was served to members and their families.

The club, which was federated in 1917 with 25 members, had as its first president, Mrs. John Wilson. Other past presidents have included, Mrs. William Schenk, Mrs. Hugo Menzel, Mrs. Harry Warneke, Mrs. Clifton Clark, Mrs. Frank McFee, Mrs. Howard Warneke, Mrs. Kendall Clark, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Ralph Clark, Mrs. Sherwin Schenk, Mrs. Einar Larson, Mrs. Joe Mars and Mrs. Donald Vevea.

## *"A New Basement"*

The following is an article taken from the Anoka County Union, December 9, 1925.

"The Ramsey Circle entertained with a chicken dinner and program at the Farmers' Club and invited guests at their club house three miles west of Anoka, Thursday, Dec. 3. About one hundred guests marched into the fine new basement and partook of the sumptuous viands these good ladies had prepared. After a guessing contest, they returned to the upper hall to finish the program and spend the remainder of the day in social conversation. A group of ladies sang "Minnesota" with Mrs. Cliff Clark at the piano. Mrs. Gus Peterson, our worthy president of the tenth district of M. F. W. C., was presented. She told of the good work by club women, told the men how capable the women are in co-operating with men's clubs, rearing their families, keeping the stockings mended, the cookie jar filled and keeping up the home in general.

The next stunt was a millinery contest between eleven men. After trimming and donning their hats they marched around the hall for the judges to get a better view of them. Cliff Clark was awarded the prize as the most artistic trimmer.

The Sunshine Circle is a small club, but they have worked and co-operated with the Farmers Club and made this club house neat and comfortable. We hope to have the privilege of enjoying many such days with these good people. Mrs. Wm. Schenk presided at the meeting."

*Names of those from Ramsey  
who went into the service  
in World War II*

Ralph Clark	Conrad Steffenson
Wayne Clark	Harold Warneke
Clarence Fiddymint	Owen Warneke
Fred Hillbner	Tom Warneke
Lorin Jongenword	Arthur West
Allen Jude*	Dode West
Chester McDaniel*	Emmet West
Harold McFee	Everet West
Gordon Pipenhagen	Melvin West
Donvold Pipenhagen	Ralph West
Charles Rohl	Lynn Wilson
John Rohl	Kenneth Lipka
Arthur Brown	Arthur Walker
Warren Schenk	Frances Scroggin

\*All returned except these two.

# Third Prize Essay About Pioneer Days in Our County

## Constance Hilton Writes About First Hotel and Trading Post In Ramsey

We did not have room to print the third prize winning essay in the History of Anoka county last week, so are doing so now. It was written by Constance Hilton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hilton.

## The First Hotel and Trading Post in Ramsey Township

This hotel and trading post is interesting not only because it was the first one in Ramsey township, but also because of the part that the Bowers family had in operating it. Mrs. W. D. Brimmer of Anoka and her daughter, Mrs. Charles Smith, belong to this family.

John D. Bowers came from Blair county in Pennsylvania in 1850. He returned to Pennsylvania in 1851 and then came back with his wife and two children. They came by steamboat by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. One of their stops was at St. Paul. They then came up the river to Anoka county. The two children were Cecelia and Charles. Cecelia is now Mrs. W. D. Brimmer of Anoka and Charles was Charles Bowers of Anoka. At that time Cecelia was eleven years of age and Charles seven.

They went to live in the house where the Harry Warneke house now stands. They lived there for two years and ran a hotel and trading post. In those days it was no easy matter to come to an entirely strange place and build up a prosperous trade with the Indians. There were so many hardships to be endured.

I will now tell you some of the interesting and amusing incidents which happened at this house.

The Chippewas and the Sioux Indians, who were encamped back of their place on the Mississippi river, would come up and play with the children. They loved very much to play with the Indian children but they thought they might have been a little cleaner. It must have been very interesting to live so very near an Indian camp. There were no other children to play with.

In those days gold was very plentiful among the Indians. It came in two and a half dollar and five dollar coins. The government paid the Indians in gold. The Indians were very ignorant and when the traders came to trade furs and other articles they would manage to get all their money away from them. The Indians had no sense of the value of money. They sometimes paid Mrs. Bowers five dollars for one meal.

Many traders came by on their way to the northern trading posts and fur companies. They seemed to be very glad to stop and rest and have a good meal. One of the traders' wives wore a long dress which buttoned all the way down the front. Instead of buttons she had gold pieces sewed down the front of her dress.

Army officers and their wives would stop there on their way to the fort which is now Fort Ripley. They would stop and have dinner and trade with the Indians. They also sat around and visited and had jolly times. Some of the officers' wives were very particular about their beds and would insist that the bedding be changed while they stood around and watched but they were interesting guests and had so many stories to tell. Cecelia and Charles had a great time listening to them and running about doing little services for them.

There was a regular stage coach route that passed this hotel. The coach would always stop so that the passengers could rest and have lunch if they wished. One of the stage coach drivers and Mrs. Bowers were very friendly. He liked to help her all he could so when he was a long way down the road he blew a loud whistle as many times as he had passengers. If there were more than she expected that day, she could hurry about and make any extra preparations that were necessary.

In 1855 the Bowers family moved from this home into one further down the road. They built a large addition onto this house. This was used for a storage place for furs and all the traders and Indians used it for carrying on their trade.

When trading among themselves, the Indians never used gold, but used Indian money called wampun. It came in different sizes and shapes. Mrs. Charles Bowers of Anoka has some of this wampun which her husband had saved.

Later on in 1864 the railroad came through Itaska, as Ramsey was then called. Mr. J. C. Bowers was the first station agent and served for twelve years following the fall of 1864. The name of the little railroad station was later changed and called Dayton Port. He was also the first postmaster of Itaska.

Mr. John Bowers had very little land with his home so when Charles E. Bowers grew older he obtained as much more land as he could. He was a personal friend of Mr. Ramsey who later became the first governor of Minnesota. He helped Charles secure most of the land.

On this farm today can be seen ridges and hollows showing that the Indians had encamped there and had carried on battles. You can see where entrenchments had been thrown up around hollow places. Into these hollows the Indians placed the squaws and children while they had their bat-

ties. Arrowheads in great numbers have been found and sent away for keepsakes.

Indian warriors have been buried on this farm because so many dried bones and other signs have been found along the river. The water has washed away the mounds uncovering the dried bones. Mr. Goodrich at one time obtained permission from Mr. Bowers to collect Indian relics from his farm. So much of the wampun and so many arrowheads were sent East to friends who kept asking for them that many are not left in the Anoka homes.

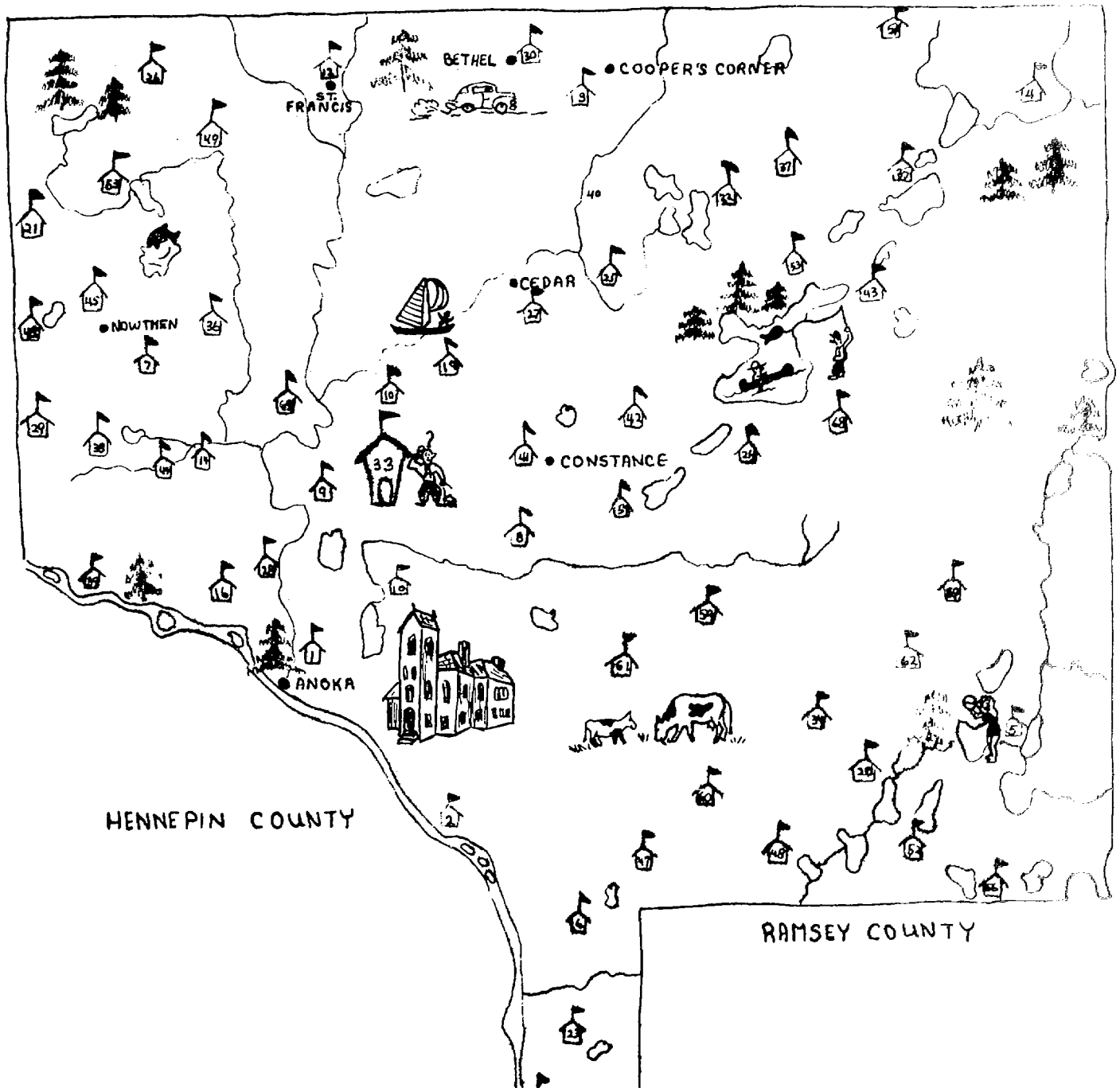
It is an interesting fact that this same farm still belongs to the Bowers family which consists of Mrs. Charles E. Bowers and sons, C. Warren, Walter D. and Fredrick J.

The two farm houses about which I have written are not the same buildings that stand on those sites today because both of the old buildings burned down some years ago.

Information obtained from Mrs. W. D. Brimmer, 1903 Sixth Ave. S., Anoka, Minn., and Mrs. Charles E. Bowers, 1870 Sixth Ave. S., Anoka, Minn.

Constance Hilton.

PUBLISHED IN  
ANOKA COUNTY UNION  
SOME TIME AGO



*A map of Anoka County showing the schoolhouses in Ramsey.*

## *Schools in Ramsey*

During the years 1854-55 there was no school in the village of Anoka and the older pupils went to Nathan Shumway's house in the town of Ramsey where Miss Sarah C. Bowen (Mrs. Moses Brown) kept a private school. School was also held in a room of the James Collins' home, one of the first frame buildings, formerly the Itasca hotel. In 1898 a school was built on the site of the former Itasca Village and on what is now the Harry Warneke property. This school burned and a new one was built on the south side of the present highway near Bowers Drive where the Olson family resides now. This was school district 39.

As the township grew the number of one room schoolhouses increased. The building for school district 16 was originally a church on the river side of Highway 10 which was moved across the highway next to the present location of Greenberg's Garage and where the trailer park now stands.

School district 44 was located on what is now County Road 5 or Nowthen Boulevard across from Keillors and is now in the process of being torn down. John Goss gave the land for the school and Isaac Varney homesteaded just behind the school. Among those who taught there, and are well known today, were Miss Ruth Stake (1911-1912) and Miss Mabel Green (Mrs. Charles Perkins) in 1913-1914.

District 38 was called the Chamberlain School of which E. O. Hanks was a former clerk. Charles Perkins was one of the students who attended school there.

District 29, or the Dunham School was actually in Burns township, but some Ramsey children attended school there, as it was much closer to their homes.

The Trott Brook school, district No. 14, was located on Highway 47 or St. Francis Blvd. and has now been converted into a home.

District 28, the brick school house, that at present is the Ramsey City Hall, was built in the 1800's, the exact date as yet has not been found.



*Students at school district 44 in 1911 ---*

*Front row - Percy Perkins, Helen Rither and Frank Loucks. Second row - Ada Crandall, Gladys Johnson, Gertrude Loucks, Margaret Walton, Martha Dettman, James Rand, Rebecca Rand, and Ormal Keillor. Back row - Bill Loucks, Harry Dettman, Guy Walton, Winifred Crandall, Harry Epps, Esther Loucks, Kate Dettman, Marion Russell, Maud Brown, Opal Walton.*



1914 - 1915

*Opal Walton, Frank Loucks, teacher - Eva Johnson, Edward Crandall, Margaret Walton, Walter Warneke, Ada Crandall, Ormal Keillor, John Loucks, Henry Ringhand, Ross Walton, Arvid Peterson, Hjalmer Overbaugh, Ruth Keillor and Mary Keillor.*

## Notice of Annual School Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting in District No. 16 in the Town of Ramsey, County, Minnesota, for the election of officers and the transaction of other business, will be held at the School House on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 1884, at 7 o'clock, P.M.

[If the school house site is to be fixed, or money raised to build or buy a school house, insert it here.]

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August 1884  
R. J. Baldwin, District Clerk.

## Warranty Deed.

John Baldwin & wife  
 TO  
 School Dist. No. 38  
 Anoka Co. Minn.

Office of Register of Deeds,  
 County of Anoka Minn. } ss.

I hereby certify that the within Deed was filed in this office for record on the 22 day of January A. D. 1878 at 10 o'clock A.M., and was duly recorded in Book D of DEEDS page 573

G. A. Neilson  
 Register of Deeds.  
Anoka County.

Taxes paid and transfer entered this 22 day of January A. D. 1878  
C. S. Cullen  
 County Auditor.

St. Paul Press Co., St. Paul, Minn.

Anoka

ST. PAUL, March 1874

M. Ramsey Town (for schoolhouse)

Bought of

REED & SHERWOOD,  
WHOLESALE LUMBER DEALERS,

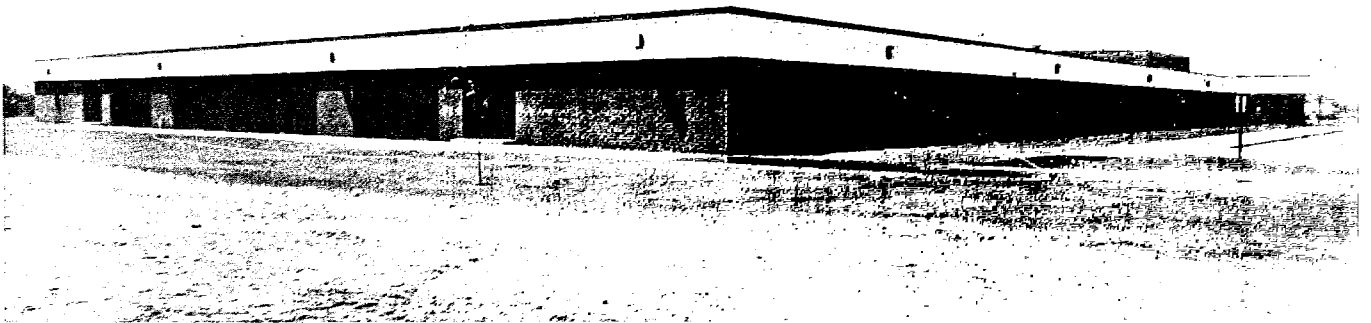
TERMS.....

Office 80 Robert St. (Up Stairs.)

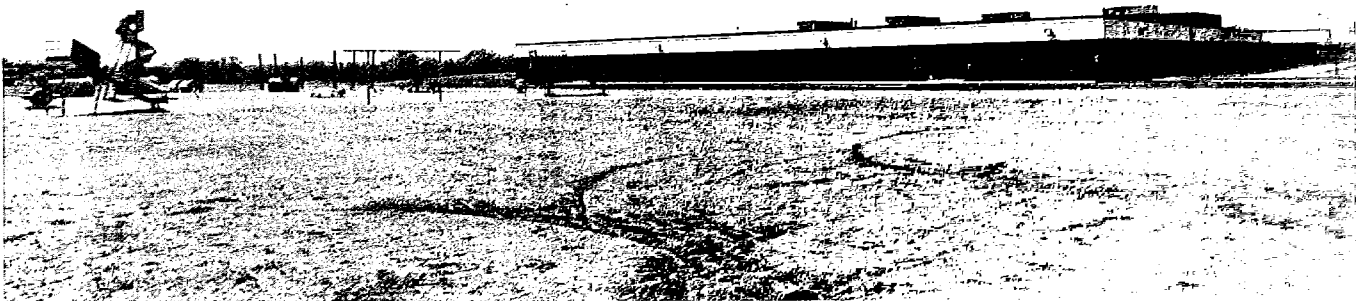
720 ft 2 <sup>nd</sup> Com bds sheathing	9	6 18
624 " " "	9	5 61
384 " " " planed	10	3 84
400 " 2 <sup>nd</sup> flooring dressed & jointed	25	10 00
32 pieces 2/4 10 & 48 pieces 2/4 12	598 ft 10	3 98
16 " 7/6 12 2 pieces of 8 24	3	
3 " of 8 16 14 " 7/6 12	3 936 ft 10	9 36
880 ft 2 <sup>nd</sup> siding		17 60
80 pieces 1/6 16 ft 1 <sup>st</sup> joicing	640 ft 12	7 68
87 " 1/4 12 Box planed	252 " 26	6 58
9 " 1 1/2 12 2 <sup>nd</sup> clear planed	160 ft 26	5 83
6 " 1/8 A stock 48 ft planed	25	1 20
150 ft 1 <sup>st</sup> Com 16 ft bds planed	11	1 65
320 " 3 inks beaded ceiling	27	8 64
16 ps 1/10 12 A stock	4	
8 " 1/6 8 " A.S.	192 25	4 80
8 " 1/6 40	40	
7 " 1/4 ft 2 <sup>nd</sup> flooring	49 89 25	2 70
6257 T shingles 2/4		14 06
2400 Lath	1 80	3 60
		<del>11508</del>

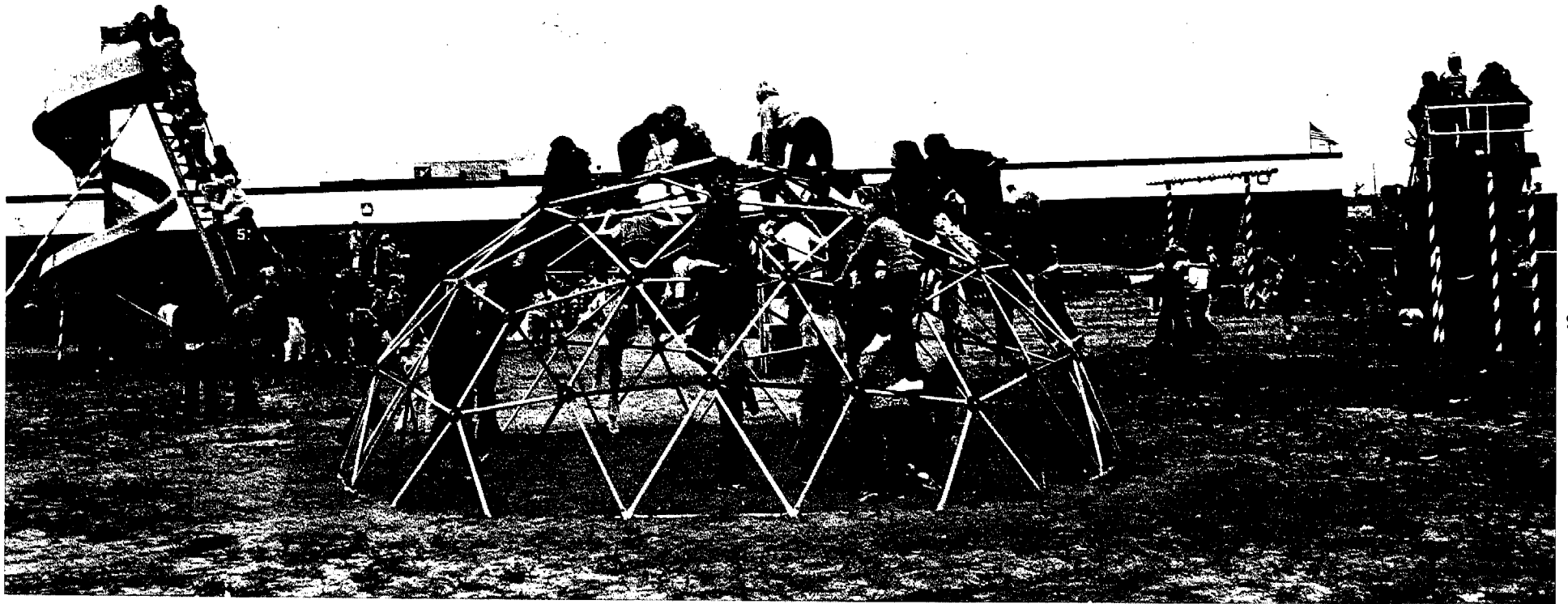


*A one-room schoolhouse.*




*The new Ramsey Elementary School.*





*Playground equipment at the Ramsey Elementary School donated by the Ramsey Lion's Club.*

**Certificate** OF **Award**  
THIS CERTIFIES THAT



41  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Walter E Bradley* \_\_\_\_\_  
of School District 14 of Ramsay Township  
Aroka County, he is awarded this Certificate  
for being **Neither Tardy nor Absent** from school during the term  
ending Dec. 24 1902.

Given at Trott Brook School this 21  
day of December 1902

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher.

*George S. Gudrich.*  
Superintendent of Schools.

No. 109

Expires April 14th 1878

Premises School House

Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company,

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

Capital, . . . . . \$600,000.00

School District No 28

\$ 300, . . . . . \$ 300

Western Branch Ed., Jan. 1876.

Issued at Anoka Agency.
O. S. Penner Agent.

I hereby Certify, That the within is a true and correct copy of the original order as recorded in this office.

Dated this 9th day of July

A. D. 1876

County Auditor

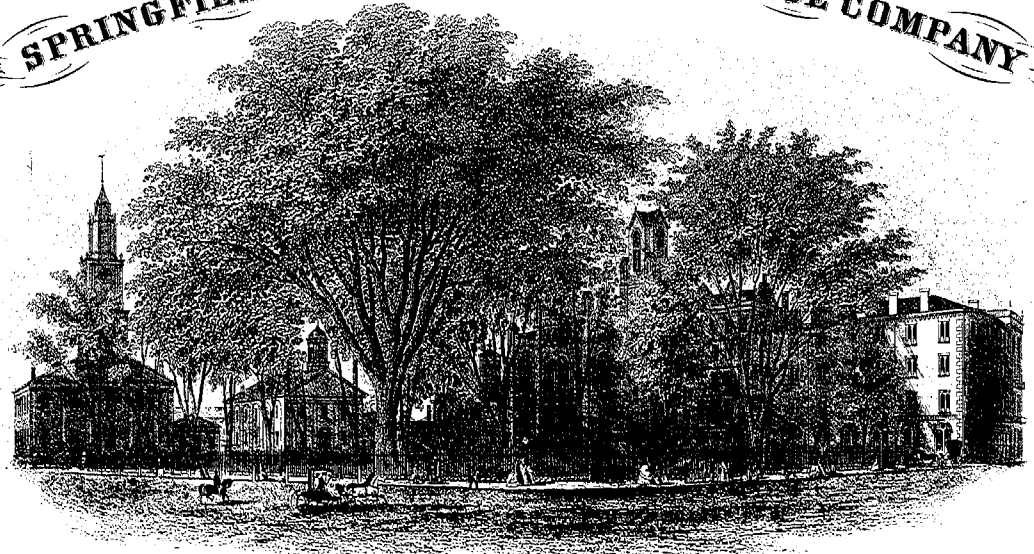
Stark

County, Minnesota.

*AB* 109

BY THIS POLICY OF INSURANCE,  
THE **SPRINGFIELD FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY** OF

\$300.00



SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

In Consideration of Three Dollars

To insure Francis Jennings, Family Grocer, <sup>Christie Chausseurain, Operator of School District</sup> ~~Christie Chausseurain, Operator of School District~~ <sup>of the County of Hampshire</sup> ~~of the County of Hampshire~~   
AGAINST LOSS OR DAMAGE BY FIRE, TO THE AMOUNT OF

Three Hundred Dollars in a term of One Year on three One Story Frame School-Houses situated on the East Side of the Town of Westfield, District of Western Mass. & furnished with the same Twenty-five to thirty in the Town of Westfield, County of Hampshire. Expenses, being less a Premium, are hereby \$ 100 as a part of the contract.



# *Bits and Pieces*

The following are interesting items of interest taken from old records of Ramsey Township.

\* \* \* \* \*

Taxes assessed in 1858 — \$58.97

Taxes assessed in 1860 — \$125.00

\* \* \* \* \*

Money collected on special sub district school tax for sub. district No. 3 up to December 2, 1861 — \$55.45

\* \* \* \* \*

Mary A. Barnard, teacher school district no. 1 paid — \$18.00

\* \* \* \* \*

1863 — paid to Albert Woodbury for surveying roads — \$6.00

\* \* \* \* \*

July 18, 1864 — paid to Cornelius Pitman the sum of \$25.00 to pay expenses of enrolled men to St. Paul to get their names stricken from the roll.

\* \* \* \* \*

Money in treasury after audit, March 29, 1867 — \$179.87

\* \* \* \* \*

March 30, 1867 paid to Angus McLeod for services as postmaster — \$6.50.

October 13, 1869 paid to R. F. Downs for lumber to build bridge on Trott and Ward Creeks — \$58.75.

June 9, 1869 paid Jedediah Kimball for making a secretary — \$15.00

June 25, 1870 paid John Ward for building bridges on State Road — \$54.25.

June 1871 paid R. F. Downs for plank to build bridge across Harpers Marsh — \$3.90.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1871 town board meetings were held in Trott Brook School - district 14, and also in district 16, school on highway.

November 15, 1892 paid to C. E. McLaughlin for moving seats in school house and replacing same — \$1.50.

December 15, 1892 paid to F. E. Tilden, bounty on wolf, \$2.00.

April 1, 1892 paid to M.A. McKinney, moderator at town meeting, \$1.50.

June 12, 1861, paid to Joseph C. Varney, highway surveyor for District No. 1, \$3.00

Taxes assessed in the township of Ramsey for the year 1860 - \$125.00.

June 27, 1861 paid to Isaac C. Varney for services as town superintendent - \$1.50.  
March 25 — E. F. Demarest for services as appointing board - \$1.00.  
March 31, 1862 — to Mary A. Bernard for services as school teacher in District No. 1 - \$18.00.  
April 1, 1862 — to E. F. Alling for services as school teacher in sub. dist. No. 3, \$25.00.  
April 9, to Elizabeth Hurvey for teaching school in Sub. Dist. No. 1 - \$16.00.  
March 31, 1863 — I. C. Varney for services as school superintendent - \$.75.  
April 7, 1863, received of D. W. Whitney, treasurer of the Town of Ramsey, for the year 1862, all papers belonging to the office of treasurer and moneys as follows: town fund, \$9.77 and road fund, \$106.22.  
June 9, 1863, paid to Pennell Shumway on order dated June 8th, for roads and bridges - \$10.00.  
March 14, 1863 — paid to Joseph Trott for furnishing lumber for a bridge near A. J. McKinneys - \$18.50.  
March 29, 1864 — paid to Cornelius Pitman for furnishing lumber and building bridge on sec. line - \$20.00.  
June 22, 1868 paid to Frank Demarest for fencing burying ground - \$50.00.  
March 30, 1869 - to Wm. Tennison for services as supervisor and for deed stamp and recording the same for burying ground - \$4.75.  
October 8, 1869 - paid to C. E. Merrell for putting in bridges on the Trott and Ward Creeks - \$36.75.  
1870 supervisors - V. F. Downs, Frank Demarest, Charles E. Merrill.  
March 7, 1871 - paid to P. Shumway for services as clerk of election \$2.00.  
Settled with G. A. Foster March 7, 1871 and found town in debt \$5.36.  
March 7, 1876 - paid order to Elias Pratt for services as surveyor - \$3.00.

# *The Ramsey Cemetery*

The Ramsey Cemetery is located about three miles west of Anoka just north of Highway 10 (NW¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 27; Twp. 32, R 25), comprising one acre. The cemetery was originally owned by Alfred Foster who later deeded it Ramsey Township. It was established prior to 1860, platted in 1861 but the first known burials were those of Richard and Jane Porter who were buried there in 1852 — 1854 respectively. Burials were evidently made when it was open prairie as no roads lead to this area. One soldier, Charles Pitman, Company C of Minnesota Mounted Rangers is known to be buried there.

It is not known just how many bodies were buried in this cemetery, but nine have been removed, 6 bodies removed to the Champlin Cemetery, and three others who were removed.

The last burial in Ramsey Cemetery was that of John C. Bowers who was buried there in 1879 and who was later moved to Oakwood Cemetery in Anoka. The cemetery was abandoned in 1905.

This cemetery was read in 1967 by Herbert Murphy, a Ramsey supervisor at that time. It was read again in 1973 by two members of the Anoka County Historical Society and several stones and markers that had been found by Mr. Murphy were missing at that time. Considerable vandalism has been done in the cemetery. Several Ramsey residents have reported seeing gravestones from this cemetery that were used as sidewalk stones for a nearby house.

Among those known to have been buried in the Ramsey Cemetery are:

Cornelius Pitman, died April 7, 1881, aged 76 yrs., 9 mos.

Broken stone nearby, 21 yrs. -- illegible - children of C. & H. Pitman

H. W. Tilden, died Jan. 25, 1882, aged 76 yrs. -- footmarker H. W. T.

Louisa D. Tilden, died Dec. 12, 1878, aged 67 yrs.

Joseph Read - 1879

Rachel E. Mauger, died Sept. 5, 1883, aged 38 yrs.

Matilda B. Mauger, died Aug. 5, 1870, aged 15 yrs.

Rachel E., wife of D. P. Mauger, died Nov. 4, 1881, aged 64 yrs.

Richard and Jane Porter, 1852 and 1854

## *Trott Brook Cemetery*

Trott Brook Cemetery is located on the NE¼ of SW¼ of Sec. 2 Ramsey, Anoka County, 1 acre. It is owned by the City of Ramsey, first opened in 1856 with the first record of burial in 1868.

J. E. Trott took a claim in 1855 on the creek that now bears his name. Soon after, he set aside one acre for a burying ground which was named for him. Mrs. J. Noggles had charge of the cemetery until 1918, the date of her death, after which no records of any kind, outside of the plat could be found. H. H. Schwab then took charge and started a burial record, making some entries, by memory, back as far as 1878. Mr. Schwab died in 1933 and records were kept by Mrs. Schwab. The record book was then kept by different families in Ramsey, but is now at the City Office in Ramsey, as well as a copy of the plat map.

## *Largest Moonshine Plant*

(A front page news item taken from the Anoka County Union, Jan. 6, 1924)

"The largest moonshine plant Sheriff Pratt has ever heard of was captured last week by himself and his deputies on the old Pullen place in Ramsey. The tenant on the place, a man named Howard Jensen, was arrested and plead guilty in municipal court to a charge of maintaining a nuisance. He was fined \$100 and costs. But that was not the end of his troubles. He was brought into district court on a charge of manufacturing intoxicating liquors. Again he pleaded guilty and this time was sentenced to a sojourn of 60 days in jail. In addition he was fined \$250 and in default of payment he will have to serve five months longer.

The plant was well equipped for carrying on a wholesale business. The copper still which now rests in the basement of the city hall, has a capacity of 250 gallons and several tanks of galvanized iron were included in the outfit. A gasoline pump had been provided to supply the water.

The amount of material confiscated included 125 gallons of liquor, 300 gallons of mash, 1000 pounds of sugar, 150 pounds of cracked corn and a box of yeast."

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An item taken from the Anoka County Union, October 5, 1938 from the "Fifty Years Ago" column: (1888)

"About six weeks ago, Chas. E. Bowers needing help on his farm in Ramsey, hired two tramps, who gave their names as Pat Riley and Walter Hornbuckle. The fellows worked quite steadily until last week Monday when they decided to quit and were paid off. Going into the house to get their "tussocks" they entered the room of Mrs. Isabella Bowers and appropriated \$20 in money and an old silver watch. Before leaving the field they smashed a dinner pail, broke all the dishes and hid the pitch fork. Charley says he has no use for tramps now."

# *Tornado Hits Ramsey*

Taken from the Anoka County Union, Wednesday, May 20, 1942

A great whirling, twisting, squirming, bouncing funnel-shaped black cloud caused great damage in Anoka county Wednesday afternoon.

At three o'clock it was oppressively sultry and unusually dark, although the morning had opened cool, but cloudy. The telephone rang and Will McFall, at the power house, said a tornado was passing about five miles west of Anoka. The top of the great cloud covered an almost unbelievable area. Lightning, not the chain definite flashes, but flashes more like heat lightning were noted as they kept up an incessant flash. Debris in the vortex of the funnel was carried high into the air to be spewed out along the path of the tornado. The storm started in Hennepin county, and leveled a barn on the Ralph Lahn farm. It grew in force and a swirling mass near the ground gradually increased in size and grew higher and higher till it met the almost black cloud overhead. The tornado followed the direction all of them take, from the southwest to the northeast. It crossed the Mississippi at the Harry Warneke farm this side of Dayton, tore massive willow trees on the east bank of the river out by the roots, pulled water and mud fifty feet into the air; and swept directly towards the Warneke house. Mr. Warneke was ill, recovering from a recent major operation. Outbuildings, garage, etc., were smashed to kindling wood. The great barn, an unusually heavy one, well constructed, was lifted from the foundation and warped out of shape nearly thirty feet from where it was. It was practically destroyed. All livestock was in the fields. If the horses and cattle had been inside they would have been killed. The barn fell on an automobile and crushed it. It didn't seriously damage the house. Nearby, in the same yard, was a smaller white house which had been occupied by Mr. Warneke's parents. Fortunately they were in Seattle at this time. It then swept across the double highway, strewing trees and wreckage along the way. It passed across the railroad tracks, leveling the wires.

## Warnekes Not Hurt

Mrs. Warneke went to help Mr. Warneke, but the storm passed before they could get down the cellar. Across the railroad tracks at Howard Warneke's, a cousin, the storm make kindling of the barn, carrying great sections into the air. A. Blais of Dayton

Station watched the funnel roar along. The cloud seemed to bounce. It would go up in the air, free from the ground and then dip down to wreck everything it touched. There were two funnel-shaped clouds a few minutes apart following almost the same course, a most unusual phenomenon. B. Weier, hired man, stood in the doorway and watched the barn literally fly away.

#### Refuge in Basement

Between this point and six miles further northeast no damage was reported but the cloud struck the W. B. Makowsky place. Mr. and Mrs. Makowsky saw it coming and rushed to the basement. Here the house was lifted off the foundation, leaving the kitchen. A cement silo and barn were wrecked. The next place struck was the Alfred Johnson place occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Walton. Great damage was done here. Walton was alone at home and saw it coming. He dropped into a gully and held onto a tree and escaped injury. Mrs. Guy Walton had been attending a meeting of the Governor Ramsey Club at the W. K. Matheny home, east of Anoka. She left the club early to go to her home, and Mrs. T. G. J. Pease was with her. As they neared Highway 10, Mrs. Walton exclaimed: "There comes a tornado." It seemed to be coming right for them. She couldn't back up, so they crossed the tracks onto the highway and rushed into Grotius Giddings' home, asking for safety in the cellar. Mr. Giddings assured them the tornado was passing to the west. It did. The clouds were so dark and covered such an area it looked from there as though the funnel would strike Anoka. Later, Mrs. Walton said she hoped the storm had not done any damage to her place as she stood and watched it. The pictures give but a faint idea of what she found when she arrived home. The great grove of fifty-year-old trees in the front yard were down. The barn demolished, silo ruined, out-buildings wrecked. Every window in the house broken (the storm windows were on, too) and bedding ripped from the beds. Chimneys torn off, wires down. Neighbors rushed to the place, and lifted the barn roof off of several horses. One horse had its back broken and had to be killed. A colt was killed. In the barn was a new hatching of chicks and they were found alive hunting for something to eat. A gosling had hatched during the storm and it was out looking over a world new to humans as well as little geese.

It was a most fortunate thing that Mrs. Walton was not at home. She said if she had been, she would have been in the hay mow looking after some of her tiny chicks. She would likely have been killed when the barn was wrecked. When she came home she found the mother hen and chicks walking about as calmly as you please.

### Mother and Baby Escape

The house most damaged was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hunt, just across the road to the northeast from the Walton home. Mrs. Hunt was home and upstairs was a five months old daughter, Delores, asleep. The mother rushed up the stairway, grabbed the baby and started toward the cellar, clasping the little one tightly. Everything went black. The house was torn off the foundation and piled a mass of broken boards, timbers, furniture a hundred feet away. When the writer arrived at the scene, there was little debris in the basement, but rows of canned fruit in glass jars were exposed to the elements. A call was put in to Anoka and Chief A. W. Chase of the fire department went with the driver to the scene and mother and child were given first aid and the doctor found no serious injury, just bruises. The barn and out-building were wrecked.

### Storm Loses Force

Here the storm seemed to lose force and no more serious damage was reported.

When the news reached the Union, representatives rushed to Dayton, and later to Nowthen. Telephone, telegraph and power lines were down. Reaching Dayton, a highway patrolman was on the job. A truckload of soldiers going west stopped to give help if needed. In the Warneke barn was a dog, chained. A young man went to release him and was bitten on the right hand. Cars stopped at the scene as traffic is heavy on No. 10. Soon railroad repair men appeared; electric power workers and telephone men began the job of untangling the news nerves. The REA crews started repair work at once. Sheriff Olson was on the scene, and Harold Blewett was watching men clear the debris from the roads.

### Hail and Heavy Rain

The Elk River Star News said:

There was a heavy rain, and a hail storm accompanied the twister, hail stones of record size being reported. Hail as big as goose eggs or doorknobs fell, some measuring as much as 2½ inches in diameter and over seven in circumference.

The clouds were so heavy that it became almost as dark as night, and local citizens were genuinely alarmed at the prospects of a disastrous storm. However, by late afternoon the storm was over, the sky cleared and the sun came out nice and bright.

## *Early Ramsey*

Following is an article written by Mrs. Henry Wilson for the Anoka County Historical Society. It tells of the Wilson family, early settlers in Anoka County, and of early days in Ramsey.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. Sardon Wilson came from England to Minnesota and stopped at Old St. Anthony, staking a claim in what is now the heart of Minneapolis, remaining there until great loneliness encouraged them to give up their claim and move to Ramsey in 1856 to be near Mrs. Wilson's sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Allison, who had come on ahead. The Wilsons lived in various places in Ramsey and gave birth to five children, J. W. Wilson, Herbert Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson (Mrs. James O'Keefe), Loretta Wilson (Mrs. I. A. Harthorn), Henrietta Wilson, (Mrs. Freeman Jordan). When war was declared, Sarden Wilson hired Uncle Moses Goodrich, father of Supt. G. D. Goodrich, to move the family from Bryant farm to Anoka on First Avenue, and he with R. B. Porter, Lewis Carpenter, Isaac Varney, enlisted with Hatcher's Battalion to put down the Indian rebellion.

Serving two years in the army, as soon as discharged he took his family and moved to Mananah, near Paynesville. At this time the Great Northern Railroad was constructed as far as Foster's corner. Sarden helped to build the stockade at Swede Grove which provided protection in case of further Indian hostilities. After living here about nine years Mrs. Wilson died and the family returned to Ramsey to the Alison home, Mr. Alison being dead, Mr. Wilson later married Mrs. Alison.

In those days farming was very crude. Without the aid of machinery much of the work was done by hand and the Wilsons tell how their father used to cradle grain. A cradle was a scythe with teeth along the outside edge 2 or 2½ feet long and when a swath was cut left the grain lying in a winnow and in a straight line. Afterwards it was straightened by keeping feet close to ground and bending over, picking and straightening and binding into bundles with straw bands. It was said that Sarden was so expert in cradling that he was called the Marsh Harvester and was always very busy in harvest cradling grain for his neighbors after his own was taken care of. A long day spent in this way brought him flour equal to a batch of bread, with which he was frequently paid.

Oxen were commonly used to farm with, also for logging purposes farther north. Near Princeton and Milaca pine logs were cut and drawn to the rivers, where they

floated and were worked along by a crew of men called river drivers to Anoka, on the Rum, and Minneapolis, where saw mills were located. Logging and river driving gave employment to the male population of Anoka and Ramsey for many years.

There was very little education for most people these days. They were too busy doing the work necessary to bring them something to eat. School terms were short. The teacher boarded around. There were no scratch tablets, slates were used and there were no books except those possessed by the teacher, and she was expected to possess these as a necessary qualification. On account of absence of machinery so much hand work was necessary to raise a living by farming that very little time was left to go to school.

In these days ministers of the Gospel traveled, usually on horseback, and boarded with those upon whom he called. Some of the early settlers were Lewis Carpenter, Mrs. Dayton, F. J. Edgartons, Alfred Bryant, Penn Shumways, Alfred Foster, C. Pitman, Majors, W. B. Wilson, A. J. Smith, James Collins, Michael Nugent, R. B. Porter, Rufus Downs, Zelotus Downes, Isaac Varney, Rices, and Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bowers. The Bowers first lived at and kept the hotel where James Collins lived later on. They later moved to the place now known as the Bowers' farm, keeping a store for a time. Mr. Bowers passed away in October, '79 and Mrs. Bowers and their son, Charles, moved to Anoka about two years later. The Bowers, Lewis Carpenter, Penn Shumway, Alfred Foster, Isaac Varney, Majors and R. B. Porter families all came to Ramsey about the same time, between the years 1850 to 52 and 53.

The land for the first cemetery in Ramsey was deeded to the Town of Ramsey by Alfred Foster in November of 1865. C. Pitman and Joseph Trott were witnesses - H. W. Tilden was Justice of the Peace and this deed is on record. This H. W. Tilden owned the old Tilden farm, and was father of Freeman Tilden, on whose farm Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin Schenk now live.

J. W. Wilson married Ida Edgerton, daughter of F. J. Edgerton in 1880, and they purchased the farm north of the railroad known as the Fred Huebner farm. The new land was partly prairie where they built their house. The house still stands, though remodeled some. In 1883 a son was born, Henry H. Wilson. In 1892 they moved to what was then the David Bryant home, where John and Ida Wilson lived, until Henry grew up, attended school and the University of Agriculture, before he married Myrtle Hall, and they followed in possession of this home forty years. In 1910, John Wilson purchased a house from the Kings and went to live there. J. W. began on very little and added to it by preserving an enduring interest that brought him success and comfort in his declining years.

In the years 1888 or 89 A. J. Smith, who lived on and owned the land where Chounard Cafe now stands, gave the land for a church. Those prominent in aiding its construction and who solicited finances were: W. B. Wilson, Lewis Carpenter and sons, Alfred Bryant, A. J. Smith and others. John Smith, son of A. J. Smith, was a minister, and he preached here for some time. The church was built across the highway from the A. J. Smith home, where it stood for many years, until the south bound road of highway 169 was built in 1939, when the Highway department moved it to its present location. H. A. Bradeen was superintendent of the Sunday School. Later, members of the Baptist Church got interested and Jim Berry and his sister, Helen, came for Sunday School teachers and Harvey Pryor was superintendent. Some of those who attended were, Mrs. John Herman and daughter Mary, Mrs. Richard Jude and daughter Ethel and son Charles, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Woodbury, who then lived on Nugent place, and Mrs. Woodbury's brother and family the Frank Coogins, Mary Jedlica and Maud, Alice Hellet (Mrs. Leon McLauffin, Mrs. Charles McLauffin, Walter and Ozro Hall and sister Myrtle, Henry Wilson, Watt and Allen Thomas and sister Addie, who lived where Ronald Peltzer now lives, George Steins and there were others. Quite a houseful at times.

People moved away and passed on. Others joined a church in Anoka, but an organization known as the Literary Society organized in 1909. The same people and the same organization changed its name to Farmer's Club about 1915, and Mrs. W. B. Wilson, who was still living and possessed the deed, presented it to the Farmer's Club, which still holds it, but will always be open to religious meetings. This club for many years had a membership of 75 to 100 members, but now about 25 of that number, of which Clifton Clark, Keith Clark, and their wives and Myrtle Wilson of the original, with the Sherwin Schenks and Harvey Warneke family.

It is an interesting fact that the family of Sarden Wilson and R. B. Porter became acquainted during the Indian outbreak. All endured privations of pioneer days, and lived in Ramsey the greater part of their lives. Practically all the Wilson and Porter children, also grandchildren and great grandchildren attended school in District 16. A grandchild, Anna Wilson, daughter of Herbert and Blanche Wilson, also Helen Wilson, daughter of Henry and Myrtle Wilson, both great granddaughters of Sarden Wilson and of the latter of R. B. Porter, taught school in District 16. Also, the children of Clarence Porter, grandchildren of R. B. Porter attended school in district 16; and Daisy Porter, later Mrs. Walter Bradley, taught school in District 28, now Ramsey Town Hall. Further, all decedents lived to grow up in Ramsey, but now Myrtle Wilson, writer of this story, is the only survivor. All have played an active part in

the development of Ramsey, according to the day in which they lived. John Wilson was a member of the first Farmer's Telephone Company. Henry Wilson served on the school board continuously from 1910 to 1948 with the exception of one term of three years. Both John and his son Henry acted as Path Masters for several years when they worked out their Poll Tax. Now we vote tax for road building, have seen hoes replaced with horse drawn machinery, and then tractor power machinery, electricity came to replace lamps and pumps, cowpaths and dirt roads became paved highways, horse and buggy days gave way to automobiles and airplanes. Daily mail, telephone, telegraph, radio, television; central heating replaced the air-tight stove; oil heat or gas take the place of coal or wood, and the outside toilet vanished.

Names of families omitted in general write up:

Dan Majors, John Herman, Abe Merrill, were veterans of the Civil War, and friends of the R. B. Porters and Sarden Wilson. Charles McLauflin lived where Santa Claus Town was. He had four sons: Charles Jr., Eugene, Leon, and Benjamin; two daughters, Lillian and Ida. All are deceased except for Ida, who lives in California. The Charles Richardson farm is now owned by John Benzian of Anoka. Charles Richardson and Richard Jude lived where Elmer Anderson's Road Equipment now stands. They had two children, Charles and Ethel. Next was District 16 schoolhouse, then Elias Work's place on the north side of the highway, then Wright Saunders, where Minnesota Trailer Court is now. Next on the north side was J. W. Harthorn's farm, then the railroad crossing, now the Jensen Pony Farm. Next, W. B. Wilson, now Wesley Hunter's house. Next was Pen Shumway, followed by Guderian's, later Herbert Wilson and family. Then O'Donnell's. Next, on the south side was F. J. Edgerton's house, now Roger Dickinson's house. Then follows John Wilson's farm, later Lou Henry Herbert. Wilson's is now owned by Elmer Nelson. Next, beyond where Chargale now stands is a set of buildings built by James Jedlicka, and next this side of the cemetery was the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Herman.

In the early days, say, about 1885 on to about 1890, maybe 1895, milk was kept in pans in winter time in cooler cupboards; kept for that purpose, skimmed by hand with a skimmer into crocks, which held it until it ripened; stirred every day and churned twice a week. Some had the stamper in a tall stone jar with a wooden cover that had a hole in the center. Others had barrel churns. In summer, most folks had five gallon tin cans with a faucet in the bottom to let off milk and watch it so cream which was on top would be left in the can. This can would be let down in the well to keep it cool and let to stand 24 hours — no ice in those days — then butter, being churned again, was packed in three and five pound jars and set in pails or

other containers and let down in the well. A little later, tanks of cold water were used to set the milk cans in, which was changed often in warm weather. About 1900, cream separators, such as Blue Bell and Delaware came on the market and we separated the milk while warm, then the cream was cooled and kept in a cool place to be churned in much the same way. Then folks began to put up ice in sawdust, that was cut from lakes and river, in a shed built for that purpose. About 1914, the Twin City dry milk factory organized in Anoka. Farmers hauled whole milk in five gallon cans to the factory. Stricter laws of care of milk were made. Milk had to be sweet and in clean cans; stirred and cooled, usually in cold water pumped by gas engine and changed often. This factory made butter and cheese which we bought back at wholesale prices and also dry milk and buttermilk for pigs and calves. Now, these factories are gone. The farmers that are left have milking machines, big vats for milk electrically cooled, and big milk trucks come and pump the milk from the vats into the milk truck tank and it is hauled to Minneapolis to be processed and packaged for distribution.

All this work is done for us and still we don't know our neighbors as in the olden days when folks didn't have this or horses. Neighbors cared enough to go to homes of sick folks and offer their services, especially when a new baby was expected. Someone so ill needed help. Or death in the family; someone always went and stayed with the family until after the funeral. No one would go back. With all these privileges, many of us are so satisfied we are not concerned with the needs of our neighbors.

## *Bibliography*

Charles E. Bowers (son of John C. Bowers) was born at Williamsburg, Blair Co., Penn. July 4, 1844. At the age of nine his parents came to Minnesota, settling at Itaska, Anoka Co., June 8, 1853. For the first few years his playmates were Winnebago Indian boys, members of that tribe being encamped at Itaska and vicinity. After obtaining a common school education, he took up farming. In September, 1862 he enlisted in Minnesota Mounted Rangers, Company C, serving for thirteen months. For fifteen years he served as town treasurer of Ramsey. April 29, 1896 he married Lucy E. Faherty. Children: C. Warren, Walter Donald, and Frederick J. \*\*\*\*\*

Edgar S. Clinch (son of Edward S. Clinch) was born in Anoka, Aug. 4, 1865. Attended the common school — worked in the saw mills about four years. Since then he worked in the pineries. Was foreman for logging crews for several Minneapolis firms. Kept a hotel at Milaca, Minn., two years. Bought his present home in section 14, town of Ramsey in 1897. Mr. Clinch was married Sept. 24, 1895 to Scleda B. Sproul. \*\*\*\*\*

Isaac A. Harthorn (son of Isaac H. Harthorn) was born in the county of Penobscot, Maine, Sept. 27, 1854. He came to Ramsey, Anoka county in 1865 where he has been a successful farmer. He had one hundred and forty acres of land in sections 27 and 34, about 80 of which are under cultivation. Mr. Harthorn has been town clerk about twelve years, and director of the school board about seven years. He was married Aug. 30, 1882 to Loretta Wilson. Children: Maud L. and LeRoy Mearl. \*\*\*\*\*

James C. Keillor (son of William Keillor) was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, July 4, 1860. Obtained his education in New Brunswick and worked on his father's farm until 1881, when he moved to Anoka county where he assisted his brother-in-law, James Hunt, in the management of the latter's farm in Ramsey until the death of Mr. Hunt, since which time he has had its sole management. Mr. Keillor now owns 80 acres in section 10 where he still resides. He was never married.

William E. Keillor was born in Chatham, New Brunswick, Oct. 31, 1836, where he lived until the age of nineteen. He spent twelve years in Nova Scotia and Ontario, and then lived again in New Brunswick. In 1891 he moved to Anoka County. He taught school in Canada for about seven years, and then his health failing, he went to farming, a congenial occupation which he has since followed. In 1901 he purchased forty acres in section 3, town of Ramsey, where he now resides. He was married Jan. 26, 1856 to Mary J. Crandall. Children: Mary E. (Mrs. James Hunt), Rebecca E., James C., Thomas T. (Albert, New Brunswick), Elizabeth J. (Mrs. Herbert B. Crandall), Amilia J. (Mrs. Albin Loucks, Malmo, Aitkin Co., Minn.) and Alfred L. \*\*\*\*\*

Ira Wallace Patch was born in Prairie du Chien, Wis., Sept. 19, 1852. He was brought to Ramsey in infancy on account of the death of his mother, and lived with his grandfather, Cornelius Pitman. In 1881 he bought eighty acres of the old Pitman farm in sections 25 and 36. For about seven years he peddled dry goods, clothing, etc., all over the state. He was town clerk for six months, supervisor for two years, assessor for four years, member of the school board for about eighteen years, and town treasurer for three years. He was married to Anstress R. Ruffcorn Sept. 19, 1883. Children: Lewis (died Oct. 28, 1885) and Edith L.

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Ara E. Pitman was born in Ramsey, Anoka Co., Nov. 3, 1853. At the age of sixteen he went to work in the pineries, working in the woods and on the river for about eight years. He then took a claim in Pope county, where he lived for six years. He now lives on his father's old farm in sections 25 and 36, town of Ramsey, where he owns eighty acres. He has been on the board of supervisors about ten years and a member of the school board about fifteen years. He was married April 7, 1883 to Carrie E. Farrington. Children: Max F., Hazel M., Paul D, Marion L.

\*\*\*\*\*

Isaac C. Varney was born Feb. 4, 1827 at Lowell, Maine. He taught school for a time and came to Minnesota in 1854, settling on a farm in the town of Ramsey. During the Civil War he served in Hatch's Battalion. After the war he returned to his farm, and served as assessor for many years and in other positions of trust. His wedding was the first in the county, he having been married to Helen A. Sinclair, July 3, 1856. Children: Alice (Mrs. J. F. Perkins), Ida (Mrs. W. D. Brown), Helen (Mrs. J. D. Medlock), Medora (Mrs. Miles Milton), Nellie (Mrs. M. C. Lewis), Luilda, Lers (Mrs. E. A. Rither), Willis, John and Ernest.

\*\*\*\*\*

James Herbert Wilson was born in the town of Ramsey, Anoka Co., Dec. 27, 1862. He attended the common schools in Ramsey and Paynesville, Minn. where his father lived eight years. He has been a farmer all his life. He bought his present home and 30 acres of land in section 35, town of Ramsey, in 1898. He was married July 27, 1890 to Blanche M. Anderson. They have four children: Anna E., Clara, Ruby and Pearl.

\*\*\*\*\*

John W. Wilson was born in Ramsey, Anoka Co., Jan. 12, 1858. He was educated in the common schools of Ramsey and Paynesville, Minn. Mr. Wilson is a farmer owning ninety acres in section 35, about forty of which are under cultivation. He has been town treasurer for two years and school district treasurer for three years. He was married June 13, 1880 to Ida M. Edgerton. They have one son, Henry H.

\*\*\*\*\*

Moses Brown was born at Milford, Maine, Feb. 13, 1823, and came from there to Anoka in 1852 purchasing a farm in the town of Ramsey where he lived until 1866 moving to Minneapolis, where he lived until his death in 1904. Mr. Brown was married in 1855 to Sarah C. Bowen, one of the first school teachers in the county. Children: Jennie (Mrs. R. H. Steeves, Chelan, Wash.) and Adelaide E. (Mrs. J. J. McHale, Minneapolis).

John Shumway and his family came from the east by covered wagon and settled on land near the railroad tracks now owned by the Anoka Vocational-Tech School. Cornelius Pitman and Daniel Harthorn also came with the Shumways and married two of the Shumway girls.

Following is a copy of a land certificate issued to John Shumway.

"Whereas, John Shumway of Benton County and Minnesota Territory has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Stillwater hereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said John Shumway according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of public lands for Lot numbered four, Section thrity-four in Township thirty-two of Range Twenty-five in the District of Lands subject to sale at Stillwater, Minnesota Territory, containing Forty-eight acres and fifty hundredths of an acre....."

Signed by Franklin Pierce, Pres. of the United States of America  
Aug. 1, 1853

Recorded Vol. 1, page 281 E

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Alfred Foster and wife (Mary Allen), son George Alfred and daughter, Lucretia, came to Ramsey Township from Fairfield, Maine in about 1854. They could not get their furniture up the river from St. Paul until the next spring.

Nov. 1855 Alfred Foster acquired land from Mark T. Berry (NW¼ of NW¼ Sec. 34 and SW¼ of SW¼ of Sec. 27, TWP. 32 North of R. 25) Benton County, Terr. of Minnesota.

Dec. 20, 1855 Alfred Foster acquired land from Amasa H. Weeks (NE¼ of NW¼ Sec. 34-32—North of R. 25 West.....containing 40 acres, Benton Co.

\*\*\*\*\*

Barnabas and Hannah Allen were relatives of Alfred Foster's wife, Mary Allen. They owned the land formerly held by Myrtle Wilson and later by Dick Jude. Therefore the Fosters and Allens owned a continuous strip on one side of the road.

**Information on one of the early pioneers of Ramsey,**

**JAMES F. QUIMBY**

taken from a letter written by his daughter, Julia R. Rand

"My father, James F. Quimby was born Feb. 1, 1833 in Phillips, Franklin Co., Maine. He with his mother, brothers, Wm and Lyman and sister, Susan (Mrs. S. R. Jones) came to Minn. in 1855, arrived in Stillwater where they had old friends, November 17, and came to Anoka county the following year. They took claims near Round Lake, They followed lumbering in the pineries and in the saw mills at Anoka. My father worked in the Woodbury mill six or seven years. He also "teamed" to St. Paul and Minneapolis for Putnam and Stowell, making three trips a week, a day each way. While in Anoka he boarded with Job Eastman. He hauled the flour barrels to hold all the flour made in Minneapolis, then St. Anthony.

In 1862 he came to Ramsey where he lived until his death, Feb. 3, 1914.

William went to Oregon in 1873, the rest lived and died in Ramsey.

My mother, Charlotte Rogers was born May 9th, 1841 at Brownsville, Maine, the oldest daughter of Eli and Catherine (Heath) Rogers. They moved to Minnesota when she was 12 and settled at Round Lake. She attended school in Anoka and taught several years, "boarding around". She married James F. Quimby, October 4, 1872. There were only two children, myself and sister Susan, who died February 2, 1914. Uncle Lyman died March 25, 1925 and Aunt Susie Jones the following August. My mother died, December 19, 1931, the last of the Rogers family of her generation.

Williard Littlefield is the only other person in the neighborhood who was born here and stayed and Mrs. Mary Hunt who was here before 1885, 1882, I think."

## *City of Ramsey*

Ramsey Township was incorporated as a City on November 12, 1974.

The first members of the City Council were; Arnold Cox, Mayor; and councilmen, Gary Gorham, Gary Reimann, David Mickelson and Beverly Oliphant.

The Planning and Zoning committee consisted of Al Sorteberg, chairman; Messrs. Emmans, Pittman, Gamec and Fossum and Mrs. Astrid Guy.

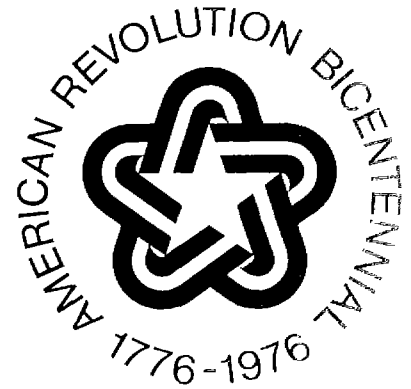
The building inspector was William Pittman and the assessor, Ernest Larson.

The Park Board was made up of Bob Muller, Jack Zobava, Ken Peterson, Bob Zelenak and Kathy Schneider.



*Pictured from left to right: Gary Gorham, David Mickelson, Mayor Arnold Cox, Gary Reimann, Beverly Oliphant.*

OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL  
PRESENTATION  
and  
FIRST BIRTHDAY OF THE  
CITY OF RAMSEY



Scouts presentation of American Flag  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Mayor Cox —  
    Welcome and introduction of guests and older residents  
Remarks —  
    Mayor Cox  
    Ramsey's First Birthday  
    Presentation of Mrs. Guy's Portrait  
Introduction of Lt. Governor Rudy Perpich —  
    Presentation of Certificate and Bicentennial flag  
Bicentennial Committee — Remarks  
Coffee Hour



*Charlette Enfield, Steve Johnson, Timm Reimann and Mayor Arnold Cox.*

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### FLAG CONTEST

One of the Bicentennial projects for 1976 was a flag contest to choose a design for a flag for the City of Ramsey. The top three winners are shown in the picture above receiving their awards at a City Council meeting from Mayor Arnold Cox. First place winner, Steve Johnson, received a \$100 savings bond donated by Ron Jerich. Second place winner, Tim Reimann, received a bike donated by Arnold Cox. Third place winner, Charlette Enfield won a \$25 savings bond donated by the First National Bank in Anoka.

Ideas from the three designs were incorporated in the final design for the Ramsey City flag a copy of which is shown on the cover of this book.

# City Commissions - Committees



The City has two commissions and two committees as follows:

Commissions:

**Planning & Zoning Commission**

Chairman: Allen Sorteberg  
 Members: Gerald Zimmerman  
 Bradley Bodle  
 Thomas Gamec  
 Dennis Klohs  
 Tom Moorehouse  
 Ron West

Meeting Date - first Monday of the month at City Hall at 7:30 p.m.

**Parks & Recreation Commission**

Chairman: Fred Ritchie  
 Members: Jerry Manthey  
 Robert Benson  
 Leonard Vereecken  
 Kathy Schneider  
 Herbert Scattarelli  
 Robert Cushman  
 Ken Peterson  
 John Zobava

Meeting Date - third Thursday of the month at City Hall at 7:30 p.m.

Committees:

**Building Committee**

The City recently formed a Building Committee to research and advise the City on a new municipal building.

Chairman: Ron Jerich  
 Members: John Schutz  
 Bob Muller  
 Dennis Anderson  
 Robert Ehalt

The Building Committee meets once a week on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

**Horseman's Committee**

Members: Tom Gamec  
 Ralph Schuneman  
 Leonard Lewis  
 Al Kempf  
 Dick Swanson

## ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Ramsey is made up of a mayor and four councilpersons. The mayor's term of office is for two years and the councilpersons are elected for four years staggered terms. The elections are conducted on even years. The next election is this year, 1976. Two council positions and the mayor will be up for election.

The present mayor and councilpersons are:

Mayor Arnold Cox ..... 421-5149  
 Councilperson Gary Gorham ..... 421-0998  
 Councilperson Gary Reimann ..... 421-8897  
 Councilperson David Mickelson ..... 421-6603  
 Councilperson Beverly Oliphant ..... 427-5491

Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at the Ramsey Elementary School. The Mayor and Council conduct a very open meeting and invite citizen input on each agenda. The agendas of the meetings are printed in the Anoka County Union newspaper the Friday before each meeting.

## At City Hall

The following officers are located in the City Hall. Telephone them at 427-1410.

City Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer-Zoning Officer:  
 ..... Donald E.V. Walker  
 Building Inspector-Assessor ..... Lester Wirz  
 Deputy Clerk ..... Arlene Peddycoart  
 Chief of Police ..... Mike Auspos  
 Street Department ..... Merle Mevissen  
 Park Department ..... Tim Paquette

Public Safety - Emergency Numbers:  
 Police ..... 427-1212  
 Fire (Anoka) ..... 421-2900  
 Fire (Elk River) ..... 441-1122  
 Dog Catcher (D. Walton) ..... 421-1909  
 or ..... 421-8873

**Business Licenses Needed**

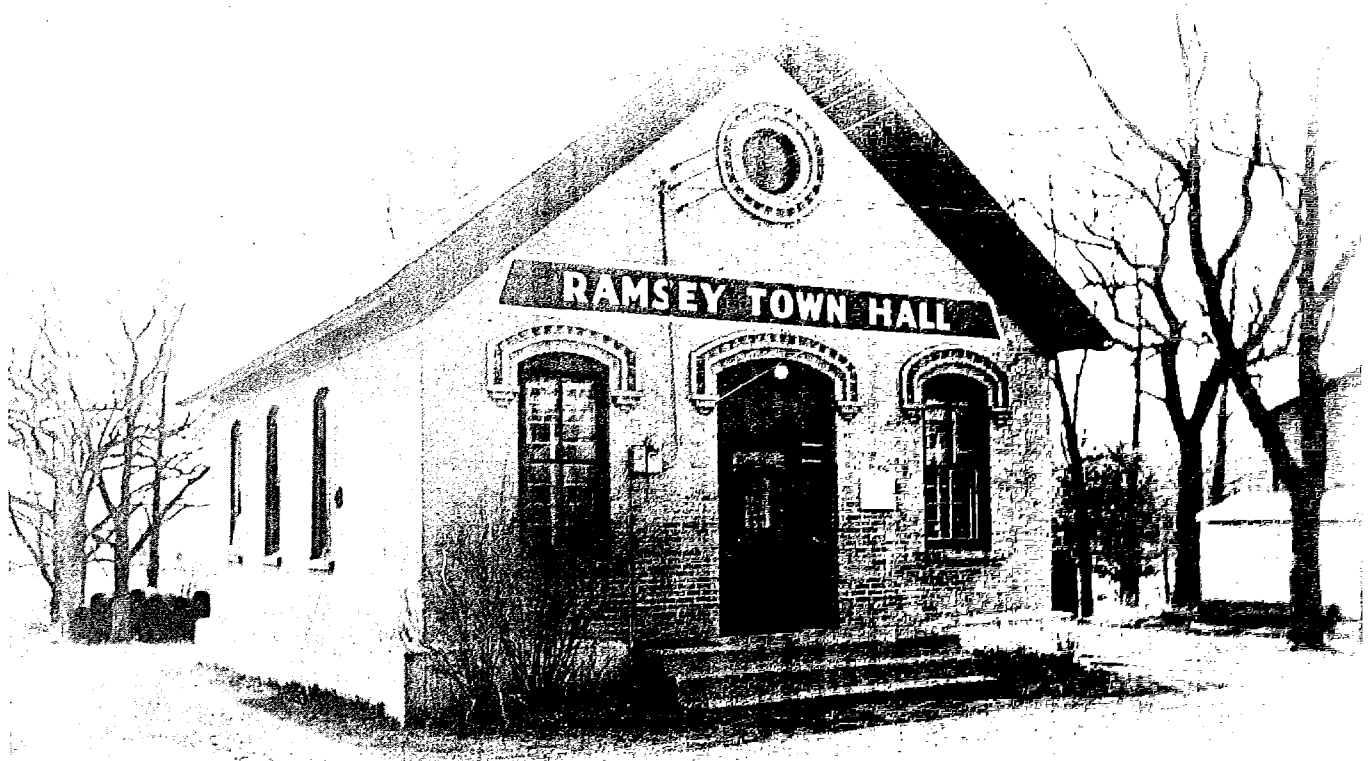
The City requires a license for contractors, motor vehicles sales and gasoline stations. No person shall practice or carry on a business in the City of Ramsey without complying with Federal, State and City regulations and laws. For further information contact the administrative office of the City, 427-1410. All licenses except intoxicating liquor expired on December 31, 1975. Renew your licenses as soon as possible.

## *Trott Brook Gospel Hall*

William E. and Mary Jane Crandall Keillor came to the United States from Canada in 1891. They purchased forty acres and established a home in Ramsey.

In 1897 Christopher Knapp spent a year preaching in this area. After this a group started meeting in homes until 1944 at which time they started meeting in the District 44 school house.

In 1955 a building program was started and completed in 1961. The land and house was donated by Miss Rebecca Keillor, daughter of the William Keillors. Approximately one hundred attend the Gospel Hall.



# *Lord of Life Lutheran Church*

March 26, 1973 Final decision of the Division for Service and Mission in America of the American Lutheran Church to begin a congregation to serve the area northwest of Anoka.

April 4, 1973 Land purchased and construction begins for parsonage at 16010 Sodium St. N. W. Ramsey.

April 26, 1973 Five acres of land purchased for \$15,000 as a site for future church at County Road 5 and 157th Lane N. W. Ramsey.

July 16, 1973 Miss Frances Schmidt, parish visitor for the ALC begins survey of Ramsey with 1877 calls being made.

August 23, 1973 The Rev. Robert W. Lea accepts the call extended by the Division for Service and Mission in America, ALC, to serve as pastor of the new mission.

August 28, 1973 First meeting of interested persons at Ramsey Township Hall with Pastor Lea and Pastor Clarence A. Larson, Area Director, Division for Service and Mission in America, ALC. A steering committee is formed.

September 12, 1973 Pastor Lea arrives to begin work.

September 16, 1973 First worship service held at the TEC Center with 129 persons present.

September 23, 1973 First Church School classes begin for three year olds through grade 9 with 42 students present, and 35 adults remaining for the adult forum.

October 7, 1973 First Worship Service with Holy Communion held with 57 persons communing.

October 28, 1973 Groundbreaking service held for the new church.

November 5, 1973 Pastor Lea's family moves into the parsonage.

December 9, 1973 Lord of Life Lutheran Church officially organized as a congregation with 203 charter members. Constitution and bylaws accepted.

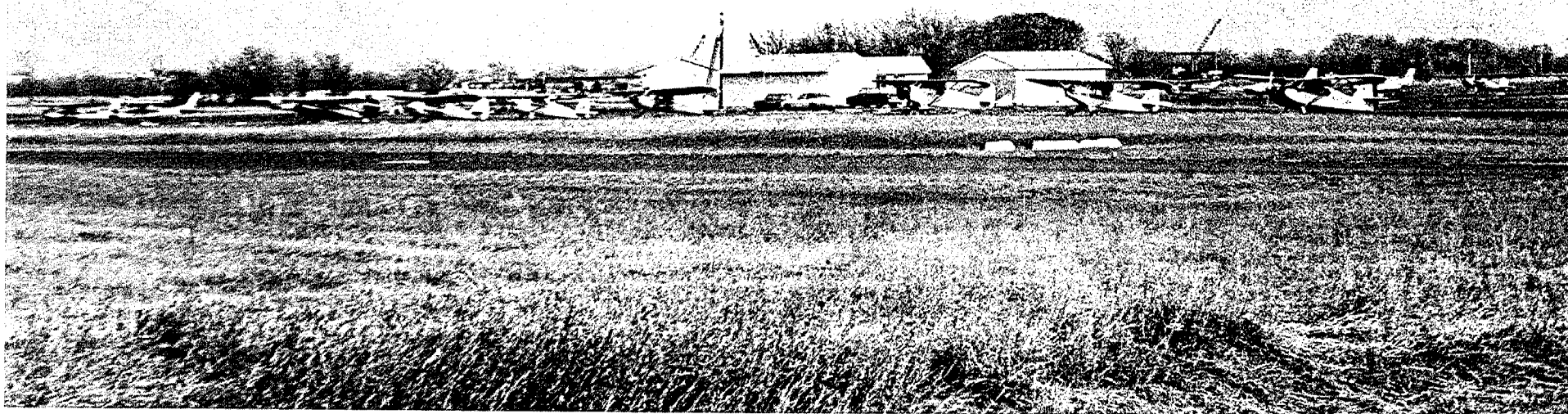
January 31, 1974 Officers of the Church Council elected at the Church Council meeting and members appointed to the Boards.

March 19, 1974 Two Women's Circles formed.

May 12, 1974 First worship service held in new church building with 267 persons present. Preceding it is a closing devotional at the TEC Center and a motor caravan to the new church where a service of entrance is held at the main doors.

June 16, 1974 Dedication of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, completed and furnished at a cost of \$240,000.





*Gateway North, Industrial Airport*