

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
DEDICATION OF WRIGHT COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Buffalo, Minnesota

May 18, 1975

I am pleased to be with you today to mark the opening and dedication of the Wright County Historical Museum. I know how much effort the citizens of Wright County have put forward to create a museum which would preserve and pass on our marvelous history.

I share your hopes that this museum not only will be a storing place for the artifacts of our past, but also a place of learning and research to guide our future.

As our nation begins to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of its founding, I am particularly pleased by the efforts in our own state of Minnesota to make this celebration a meaningful and joyous event. Nothing could be more appropriate than your efforts here in Wright County to build a living memorial to the past.

I can recall with great pleasure the many stories about the county's beginnings -- stories of adventurous settlers who found their way to Wright County even before it was opened to development, and stories of the original Indian settlements.

One of my favorite stories is that of the Republican cannon. It was built in 1896 by George Magoon Drake, a staunch Republican, and was fired only on holidays and on the election of Republican Presidents. The Republicans hid the cannon's muzzle in a barrel of beans so the Democrats couldn't herald the election of Grover Cleveland.

Even back in those days the Republicans were trying to hide things from us Democrats. But, I guess we can't be too hard on them -- after all, the county was named after a Democrat.

Seriously, though, our county is rich in the history that has made our nation a great and strong land. The Indians of Wright County gave this area its first settlements. The European settlers brought their cultures, religions, and trades with them, and turned "Big Woods" as this land originally was called into a thriving agricultural community.

People of many nationalities and many religious faiths lived happily side by side in Wright County. They lived through many hardships -- the hardships of the pioneering era, a financial panic in 1857, bad weather and locust storms, a two-year Indian war, the Wright County War, the Civil War, the First World War, the Second World War -- and through it all they remained a strong people, and our county prospered.

Ours is a proud history and one that our young people should be taught, so that the spirit which made this land strong can be nurtured by them.

I don't think I need to emphasize to people in Wright County the importance of history. Since the beginning of Wright County, the people of the county have preserved and passed on our heritage and history to younger generations.

In 1868, less than 14 years after the arrival of the first permanent settler, Wright County's first historical society was

established. This society, called the Old Settlers Association, met once a year to renew old friendships and talk of the days gone by.

It was the Society's idea that a Wright County Historical Society be formed to publish a complete and well-bound history of the county. Although these old settlers never completed their project, they provided the inspiration for our modern Historical Society and this county's historical museum.

It took us a few years to put new life back into the dreams of the original Old Settlers Association, but we have done it. Starting in 1967 with only a handful of people, our county historical society has grown to 500 people.

Today, as a bicentennial project, the Society and the county's historian are compiling a new county history. Committees are at work on over fifty subjects, spanning the horizon from Liquor and Temperance to Architecture and the Ku Klux Klan.

I understand that Representative Bob McEachern and former Representative Steve Szarke are hard at work on a Political History of Wright County. Well, when they get to current history, I'd be happy to sit down with them and give them some information on Wright County politics.

And young people are pitching in. I understand that the Junior Historians have been of great help to the County Bicentennial Committee in compiling the county history.

I am especially pleased to be here today with all my friends to dedicate this county historical museum. Only one thing could give me as much pleasure -- that would be to help dedicate the new museum which we will be building across the lake. If our fundraising activities are successful, that should not be too long from now.

#

17th May

- ✓ Rev Herhard Meiners
- ✓ Paul McAlpin - Chr County Bd
- ✓ Lillian ^(Zymerst American) Barberg President (Colorado)
- (Hat) ✓ ^(Bob) Robert Jameson + Marion Jameson
- ✓ Russell Fridley Minn Historical Society

REMARKS BY SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

David Douglas - County Auditor

DEDICATION OF WRIGHT COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Mrs. ^{Mildred} Stork - (Rockford)

BUFFALO, MINNESOTA

MAY 18, 1975

County Seat
1857 Mantiello
to
1867 Buffalo

Swedish Church

Rep. ~~John Dahl~~ ^{Harold Dahl}
Bob ~~McFarland~~ ^{McFarland}
McCarne
John ~~Burnhagen~~ ^{Burnhagen}

I AM PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY TO MARK THE OPENING ~~AND~~

~~DEDICATION~~ OF THE WRIGHT COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM. I KNOW HOW

MUCH EFFORT THE CITIZENS OF WRIGHT COUNTY HAVE PUT FORWARD TO

CREATE A MUSEUM WHICH WOULD PRESERVE AND PASS ON OUR MARVELOUS

HISTORY.

Bob + Marion Jamerson
Lillian Parberg

I SHARE YOUR HOPES THAT THIS MUSEUM NOT ONLY WILL BE A
STORING PLACE FOR THE ^{memories} ARTIFACTS OF OUR PAST, BUT ALSO A PLACE

OF LEARNING AND RESEARCH TO GUIDE OUR FUTURE.

AS OUR NATION BEGINS TO CELEBRATE ~~the~~ 200TH ANNIVERSARY

~~ITS FOUNDING~~ I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY THE EFFORTS IN OUR

OWN STATE OF MINNESOTA TO MAKE THIS ^{Bicentennial} CELEBRATION A MEANINGFUL

AND JOYOUS EVENT. NOTHING COULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN YOUR

EFFORTS HERE IN WRIGHT COUNTY TO BUILD A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE

PAST.

It is so interesting to learn of
~~I CAN RECALL WITH GREAT PLEASURE~~ THE MANY STORIES ABOUT THE
French
for Trade to them

COUNTY'S BEGINNINGS -- STORIES OF ADVENTUROUS SETTLERS WHO

FOUND THEIR WAY TO WRIGHT COUNTY EVEN BEFORE IT WAS OPENED TO

DEVELOPMENT, AND STORIES OF THE ORIGINAL INDIAN SETTLEMENTS.

↳ ONE OF ~~my~~ ^{the} FAVORITE STORIES IS THAT OF THE REPUBLICAN CANNON.

↳ IT WAS BUILT IN 1876 BY GEORGE MAGOON DRAKE, A STAUNCH

REPUBLICAN, AND WAS FIRED ONLY ON HOLIDAYS AND ON THE ELECTION

OF REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTS. THE REPUBLICANS HID THE CANNON'S

MUZZLE IN A BARREL OF BEANS SO THE DEMOCRATS COULDN'T HERALD

THE ELECTION OF GROVER CLEVELAND.

↳ EVEN BACK IN THOSE DAYS THE REPUBLICANS WERE TRYING TO
HIDE THINGS FROM US DEMOCRATS.

↳ BUT, I GUESS WE CAN'T BE TOO HARD ON THEM -- AFTER ALL,

THE COUNTY WAS NAMED AFTER A DEMOCRAT - Silas Wright

↳ SERIOUSLY, THOUGH, OUR COUNTY IS RICH IN THE HISTORY THAT
HAS MADE OUR NATION A GREAT AND STRONG LAND. THE INDIANS OF
WRIGHT COUNTY GAVE THIS AREA ITS FIRST SETTLEMENTS. THE
EUROPEAN SETTLERS BROUGHT THEIR CULTURES, RELIGIONS, AND TRADES
WITH THEM, AND TURNED "BIG WOODS", AS THIS LAND ORIGINALLY WAS
CALLED, INTO A THRIVING AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY.

↳ PEOPLE OF MANY NATIONALITIES AND MANY RELIGIOUS FAITHS LIVED
HAPPILY SIDE BY SIDE IN WRIGHT COUNTY. THEY LIVED THROUGH
MANY HARDSHIPS -- THE HARDSHIPS OF THE PIONEERING ERA, A
FINANCIAL PANIC IN 1857, BAD WEATHER AND LOCUST STORMS, A TWO-

YEAR INDIAN WAR, THE WRIGHT COUNTY WAR, THE CIVIL WAR, THE
FIRST WORLD WAR, THE SECOND WORLD WAR, ^{Korea, Vietnam} -- AND THROUGH IT ALL

THEY REMAINED A STRONG PEOPLE, AND OUR COUNTY PROSPERED,

↳ OURS IS A PROUD HISTORY AND ONE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE
SHOULD BE ^{know} ~~TAUGHT~~, SO THAT THE SPIRIT WHICH MADE THIS LAND STRONG

CAN BE NURTURED BY THEM.

↳ I DON'T THINK I NEED TO EMPHASIZE TO PEOPLE IN WRIGHT
COUNTY THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF
WRIGHT COUNTY, THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY HAVE PRESERVED AND
PASSED ON OUR HERITAGE AND HISTORY TO YOUNGER GENERATIONS.

L In 1868, LESS THAN 14 YEARS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST
PERMANENT SETTLER, WRIGHT COUNTY'S FIRST HISTORICAL SOCIETY WAS
ESTABLISHED. THIS SOCIETY, CALLED THE OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION,
MET ONCE A YEAR TO RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS AND TALK OF THE DAYS
GONE BY.

L IT WAS THE SOCIETY'S IDEA THAT A WRIGHT COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY BE FORMED TO PUBLISH A COMPLETE AND WELL-BOUND HISTORY
OF THE COUNTY. ALTHOUGH THESE OLD SETTLERS NEVER COMPLETED
THEIR PROJECT, THEY PROVIDED THE INSPIRATION FOR OUR MODERN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THIS COUNTY'S HISTORICAL MUSEUM,

L IT TOOK US A FEW YEARS TO PUT NEW LIFE BACK INTO THE DREAMS
OF THE ORIGINAL OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION, BUT WE HAVE DONE IT!

L STARTING IN 1967 WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE, ^{Wright} ~~USA~~ COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS GROWN TO 500 PEOPLE.

L TODAY, AS A BICENTENNIAL PROJECT, THE SOCIETY AND THE
COUNTY'S HISTORIAN ARE COMPILING A NEW COUNTY HISTORY.

L COMMITTEES ARE AT WORK ON OVER FIFTY SUBJECTS, SPANNING THE
HORIZON FROM LIQUOR AND TEMPERANCE TO ARCHITECTURE AND THE
KU KLUX KLAN.

L I UNDERSTAND THAT REPRESENTATIVE ^{McLarn} ~~BOB McLAHEARN~~ AND FORMER
REPRESENTATIVE ³ STEVE SZARKE ARE HARD AT WORK ON A POLITICAL
HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY. WELL, WHEN THEY GET TO CURRENT
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AND YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PITCHING IN I UNDERSTAND THAT THE

JUNIOR HISTORIANS HAVE BEEN OF GREAT HELP TO THE COUNTY

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I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY WITH ALL MY

FRIENDS TO DEDICATE THIS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM ONLY ONE

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~~DEDICATE THE NEW MUSEUM WHICH WE WILL BE BUILDING ACROSS THE~~

~~LAKE. IF OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES ARE SUCCESSFUL, THAT SHOULD~~

~~NOT BE TOO LONG FROM NOW.~~

Keep
① Bicentennial - our heritage

Deed Ind.

Constitution

✓ Pioneering-Adventure

✓ optimism-faith



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