



The Ramsey County Historical Society
323 Landmark Center, 75 West Fifth Street, Saint Paul MN 55102

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 2015

They Played for the Love of the Game: Adding to the Legacy of Minnesota Black Baseball March 16 – June 7

Ramsey County Historical Society Gallery, Landmark Center – Free

They Played for the Love of the Game traces the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues and local African American players. First exhibited in the RCHS Gallery at the Landmark Center in 2010, the exhibit has been expanded and updated, highlighting players in the Twin Cities in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, through the present day. Special events (see below) will present stories of African American baseball players and rivalries in this area, the challenges many players faced, the effect on many facets of African American life and livelihood, and the outcomes for some local players.

Frank M. White, the historian and guiding force behind the exhibition says, “The exhibit that Ramsey County Historical Society has mounted is a tribute to everyday people who were also special athletes. They are some of the great baseball players who struggled to overcome racial indignities and the lack of recognition for their accomplishments... Their absence from baseball history until recently is communicated throughout the exhibit in their own words and in the words of those who knew them.”

Frank continues, “In putting this exhibit together...and doing the research for it, what continues to amaze me is that this untold story of Minnesota black baseball is only beginning to be shared. I took on this project without knowing how important it would be to our history, to the history of African Americans and to people of all races in the local community. As one reporter shared with me, ‘You’re bringing these guys back to life.’”

Frank M. White was the manager of Recreation Programs and Athletics for the City of Richfield, MN for 32 years, until retiring in 2010. He is the Minnesota Twins RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) Coordinator. His article on “They Played for the Love of the Game: Adding to the Legacy of Minnesota Black Baseball” was published in the Spring 2010 issue of *Ramsey County History*. Mr. White received the Minnesota History Award from the Minnesota Alliance of History Museums in Sept. 2011, and was inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Honor in 2013. He is currently the owner of Respect Sports, and History Projects by Frank, focusing on local African-American history.

This exhibit was made possible in part through a donation from the Minnesota Twins.

Related Events in Landmark Center:

March 26: Opening reception from 6p-8p in the RCHS Gallery with light refreshments and comments by Frank White.
April 23: “Baseball Rivals: St. Paul and Bloomington” from 6p-8p in Room 408 with presentation by Frank White.
June 4: “St. Paul’s Oxford Playground: Baseball Discussion” from 6p-8p in Room 408 with a panel discussion to tentatively include speakers: Steve Winfield, Bill Peterson, Sean McKamie, and Debbie Montgomery.

For more information, please call the Ramsey County Historical Society at 651-222-0701, email membership@rchs.com or see the website at www.rchs.com.

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION or images: Robyn Beth Priestley, robyn@rchs.com or 651-222-0701

The mission of the Ramsey County Historical Society is to inspire current and future generations to learn from and value their history by engaging in a diverse program of presenting, publishing and preserving.

The Ramsey County Historical Society offers fun, hands-on programs for children and adults through the Gibbs Museum of Pioneer and Dakota Life; creates and curates exhibitions of historical significance at the Landmark Center and other venues; provides documents and research opportunities at our Research Center, also in the Landmark Center; manages a large collection of historical artifacts, photos, and documents; and publishes an award-winning quarterly magazine, books and other publications on the history, people and stories of Ramsey County.