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PROPERTY OF  
OLMSTED COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA

DR GRAHAM'S INTEREST IN FARM AFFAIRS PROMPTS GREAT GIFT OF FAIR GROUNDS  
TO COUNTY

To encourage agriculture and its kindred industries was one of the prime motives for the gift of \$60,000 worth of land and property by Dr. C. Graham to Olmsted County to be used as fair grounds and an aviation field. This is revealed in the deed of gift from Christopher Graham to Olmsted County, which was publicly announced at the annual meeting of the Olmsted County Fair association yesterday.

The deed of gifts reads as follows:

This deed of gift, made and entered into this 22nd day of October, A.D. 1919, by and between Christopher Graham, party of the first part, hereinafter called the Donor, his wife, Blanche B. Graham, joining therein, and the County of Olmsted in the State of Minnesota, party of the second part hereinafter called the Donee, Witnesseth:

Reasons for Gift.

The Donor was born, and spent many years, upon a farm in said county, and early came to know the hardships, difficulties and discouragements then surrounding a farmer's life, and the lack of educational facilities, not only general but special, and the difficulty of acquiring an education. He saw and was impressed with the fact that many farmers displayed little interest in means of improving their condition, and discouraged and in some cases, strongly opposed, the introduction of scientific methods and the effort to spread the gospel of good farming, and the introduction of business methods upon the farm.

He likewise witnessed the young people acquiring a dislike for the farm and farm work and leaving in large numbers for villages and cities and observed that those who remained on the farm, whether from necessity of choice, had but little interest in the advancement and improvement in farming methods, but were content to plod along as had generations preceding them.

There was little to arouse and stimulate their interest in their occupation; no meetings for discussion of their problems; no fairs or exhibitions at which any attempt to educate or instruct was made; no agricultural departments in the schools and colleges and no journals of value devoted to the business of farming and there was nothing to arouse the competitive spirit which is so necessary to marked success in any calling.

He became convinced that the welfare of the country demanded that many of these young people remain on the farm and, in order that they might be induced so to do, that farm life must be made attractive to them and that such result could be attained only through education and the arousing of their interests in farm life and farm work.

With that object in view, and without view to profit, he began efforts to improve the live stock of the county and, to that end, has devoted considerable time and means.

He long had sought some means to arouse the interest of the boys and girls in farm life, and of making the business of farming attractive to present and

future generations, and at the same time, interesting those now engaged in that business and inducing them to adopt modern methods and to look with favor upon scientific developments; and when the "Olmsted County School Fair" was first started, he believed that it was a step in the direction of accomplishing his dreams and at once became interested in it.

As successive fairs came and went, it was evident to him that much good was being accomplished along such lines, and to aid the cause and incur the permanency of the fairs he purchased land, erected buildings thereon, and on September 11th, 1912, gave to the Olmsted County Agricultural Association a lease thereof for its purposes.

It is now the desire of the Donor to further insure the permanency of said fairs and the devotion of said premises to the purposes aforesaid, and the purposes hereinafter set forth, and, to accomplish those ends, he has determined to give to said Olmsted County the premises which have heretofore been used therefor, subject to his said contract with the Olmsted County Agricultural Association, with the understanding that they always shall work in harmony to carry out the true intent and spirit of this instrument.

#### Property Given.

Now, Therefore, this indenture witnesseth, that said Donor, in consideration of the premises and the conditions herein expressed, has given, granted, bargained, sold, conveyed, assigned, transferred, set over and vested and by these presents, does give grant, bargain, sell, convey, assign, transfer, set over and vest into the said Donee, its successors and assigns, forever, that tract or parcel of real estate situate in the County of Olmsted and State of Minnesota known and described as follows, to wit:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of the Northeast quarter (3/4) of Section No. eleven (11) in Township No. One hundred six (106) North of Range No. fourteen (14) West and running thence West fifteen hundred forty five and 2-10th (1545.2) feet; running thence North eighteen hundred sixty four (1864) feet; running thence East ten hundred sixty seven (1067) feet to the right-of-way of Chicago Great Western Railroad Company; running thence Southeasterly along said right-of-way to the Section line and running thence South on said line to the place of beginning.

Reserving and excepting therefrom the South four hundred (400) feet of the East eight hundred forty (840) feet thereof.

#### Purposes of Gift.

To Have and To Hold the same, and all the singular thereof, unto the said Donee, its successors and assigns, for the holding of agricultural or school fairs, such other fairs, meetings, sales, exhibitions and expositions as to second party may seem desirable or expedient, for an aviation field and for use for any purpose which will advance, further or promote education, knowledge or experience in agriculture, aviation or any kindred or allied occupation; subject however to the rights therein of Olmsted County Agricultural Association under said agreement which is recorded in the Registry of Deeds of said County in Book N of Miscellaneous on page 223.

#### Conditions of Gift.

This gift and grant is made by the Donor, and received and shall be enjoyed by the Donee, its successors and assigns, subject to the condition that such property shall be used for the purposes aforesaid and upon the further condition that if such property, or some part thereof, shall not be used for the purposes aforesaid, for some of them, for the period of five (5) successive

years, then the same, and all thereof, shall revert to said Donor, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, and all right, title, and interest therein of said Donee, its successors or assigns, be terminated and cancelled; provided, however, that if Donee, its successors, lessees or assigns, shall be prevented for any length of time from so using the same by or on account of war, pestilence, Act of God or other cause beyond its or their control, such time shall not be considered a part of said five (5) year period.

In Testimony Whereof said Donor and Blanche B. Graham, his wife, have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.