

## Who's Who In Wisconsin Rapids

The Who's Who column will be run each Saturday in the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune. It will include a brief sketch of the life of citizens who have helped make history for Wisconsin Rapids.

### B. M. Vaughan



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Byrde McKee Vaughan needs no introduction to our readers, as he is one of the best known citizens of Wisconsin Rapids, and also enjoys a large acquaintance throughout the state of Wisconsin.

He was born in the town of Byron, Fond du Lac county, November 30, 1862. His parents, John Wesley Vaughan and Sarah Elizabeth Vaughan (neé Blake) were both American born citizens, coming from good old Welsh stock.

#### Father In Civil War

When he was about ten days old, the Vaughan family moved from their farm at Byron to the village of Fond du Lac. When the war broke out his father enlisted in the service and left with his comrades for the south where he later died at Natchez, Mississippi from diseases contracted in the army. His son was two and a half years old at the time of his death.

After his father left for the war, young Vaughan was taken to reside with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Vaughan on their farm at Byron, his mother having accepted a position to teach in the public schools at Fond du Lac.

#### Moved to Rudolph

During the month of October, 1867 his residence was again changed when he came to Rudolph to live with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alanson Blake who were among the early settlers in that vicinity. He attended the country school at Rudolph until the fall of 1876 when he came to this city to become a student at the first term taught in the Howe High school. He was also a member of the first graduation class of the school, in 1880, graduating under Professor Julius Rosholt. The class was composed of three members, the other two being E. P. Arpin and John P. Horton.

Following his graduation at the Howe High School, Mr. Vaughan was employed as a farm hand on different farms in and around Rudolph, and later served as a clerk in the Spafford & Cole Store which was then the leading store of "Grand Rapids."

#### Graduated at Madison

Early in September, 1881, Mr. Vaughan left for Madison to enter the state university, taking a course of general science, graduating with honors in June 1885, when he received the Bachelor of Science degree.

The following month he returned to this city and continued to study law in the office of Gardner and Gaylor, in the Gardner Block, in rooms on the second floor of the building which he still occupies.

#### Took Law Course

After studying with the firm for eighteen months and in the fall of 1886, Mr. Vaughan entered the law school at the State university at Madison where he was graduated in June 1888 with the Bachelor of Law degree. During his stay at Madison he did private work in the law office of John M. Olin, who was one of the ablest lawyers the state has ever produced.

On July 2, 1888, Mr. Vaughan opened a law office in this city with Cecil A. Copeland as law partner, the firm doing business under the name of Copeland & Vaughan, with offices in the Gardner Block over the City Cash Store, which is now occupied by the J. C. Penney Co. Store.

#### Partnership Dissolved

At the expiration of a year's time, Mr. Copeland withdrew from the firm to accept a position in Milwaukee as counsel for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. Mr. Vaughan still practiced his profession in the same location until early in the year 1911 when he moved in the rooms in the Wood County Realty Building, which he still occupies.

#### Was School Superintendent

He was elected to the office of city superintendent of schools in 1891 and reelected at each succeeding election until 1897. He was a member of the county board four years, served on the judiciary committee, the taxation

committee and several other committees.

He served on the T. B. Scott Library Board from the time of its organization until the consolidation of Grand Rapids and Centralia when he resigned to give the west side its proper representation.

In 1904 Mr. Vaughan was chosen by the drainage attorneys of the state to revise the Wisconsin Drainage District laws. The revision was passed by the state legislation and became law in 1905. In 1914 he was appointed by Governor E. L. Phillips as one of a committee to revise all the drainage district laws and draft drainage laws. Mr. Vaughan is considered an expert authority on drainage laws by attorneys throughout the United States.

He has been a court commissioner of Wood County for the past thirty-three years. He is a member and a former president of the Wood County Bar Association. He is a member of the Unitarian Church and is a strong La Follette Republican.

He was married July 12, 1893, to Mae Elizabeth Southard of Baraboo, who died September 3, 1922. He is the father of three children, one daughter, Katherine who assists him in his office, and two sons, Robert and Carlos.