

# 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.

## Mrs. Bridget Conway



MRS. BRIDGET CONWAY

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,  
There are souls that are good and true,  
Then give to the world the best you have,

And the best will come back to you.  
The above verse fully illustrates the life of Mrs. Bridget Hinchey Conway who was born October 8, 1834 in Milltown, County Claire, Ireland, where she lived until twelve years of age. Then she and her sister, the late Mrs. Jeffrey, and her brother, Patrick Hinchey left the "ould sod" for Houghton, England, where the children made their home with their aunt, Mrs. Katherine Adams, their mother having passed away at her home in Ireland six years previous.

### Married in 1850

In the year 1850, Bridget Hinchey was united in marriage to Patrick Conway, also of Houghton, and during their residence in that place their eldest child, Martin, was born. The young husband was ambitious for the welfare of his family and hearing of the many advantages in America where he might accumulate wealth and realize his aims in the year 1852 together with his wife and son and brother, Dennis, left on a sailing vessel for the land of promise. After a six weeks' trip across the waters they landed in New York City where Mrs. Conway and her baby remained for eleven months at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ann Keenan.

### Husband Came West

In the meantime Mr. Conway left for the west, making the journey as far as Portage by rail and continuing by foot to Centralia. From there he went to Rudolph where he took up a claim and became interested in timber lands. When he reached his final destination his entire possession of wealth consisted of fifty cents.

### Wife Follows Later

Mrs. Conway, her son and brother-in-law, Dennis Conway, followed shortly after and came to Grand Rapids where Mrs. Conway found that her trunk had been sent to Grand Rapids, Michigan. This was a great inconvenience as the trunk contained the clothing of herself and baby besides other necessities. After some time they were delivered to the right destination.

### Lived at Rudolph

Mrs. Conway went on to Rudolph, to her new western home; a log cabin built in the midst of the pines. There were other families who came there about the same time, all of whom enjoyed the ideal community life, helping one another build their log cabins, clear the land and make maple syrup. The Conways owned the first cow in Rudolph, from which Mrs. Conway generously supplied her neighbors with milk and cream.

Indians were numerous and like all other early settlers the women in that "neck of the woods" were dead afraid of them and if they thought the red men were coming their way they would take all the bedding and children and congregate in one cabin, often remaining over night.

### Toiled In Fields

Mrs. Conway was among the early toilers in the field, helping her husband clear the land, binding grain and doing other hard manual labor, besides doing her housework and caring for her children. But with it all she was always ready to lend a helping hand, caring for the neighbors in sickness and distress, and often sitting up all through the night to minister to their needs.

### Supplied Bread

Moses Blair was in charge of one of the lumbering camps near Rudolph and engaged Mrs. Conway to supply bread for his men. She did her baking in an open stone oven, there being no stoves at that time.

### Trail Thru Woods

There was no church in Rudolph and

the little colony there, came on foot to attend the services in the church at Grand Rapids. Mrs. Conway was a true christian mother and wanted her children brought up in her own faith. She carried her babies through a trail in the woods to the Catholic church here to be baptized. Besides carrying the baby she had to carry her shoes and stockings as she could not wear them, the trail being so wet and swampy. There were no paths or roads over which she could travel. When she reached the edge of town she would put on her shoes and stockings and finished the journey. When she came here to perform her religious duties she always remained over night at the home of her friends, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. McRaith.

### Mr. Conway Mill Manager

When Mr. Conway came to Rudolph the Reed Mill, one of the first saw mills in this section was in process of construction and when it was finished Mr. Conway was employed as manager during the winter seasons and during the summer season he cleared the land on his farm. The mill was later sold to Clark and Scott of Dubuque, Iowa, who owned and operated it for many years. It was later torn down when the timber was all cleared away.

### Children Well Educated

Mrs. Conway was alive to the needs of education which she had been denied and it was through her hard work and persistence that her children were all well educated and enabled to the success in life they have attained. She has not only cared for her own family, but for eight years was mother to her widowed sister's children, besides bringing up and caring for a motherless boy, Julian McCormick. Though small in stature her heart is big with love and sympathy.

### Mother of 11 Children

Mrs. Conway is the mother of twelve children, eleven having been born in Rudolph. Seven of the children are still living. They are Martin of Orient, S. Dakota, John Conway and Mrs. William Bertram of Minneapolis, Minn., D. D. and Judge W. J. Conway and Mrs. W. A. Johnson and Miss Mayme Conway, all of this city. Mrs. Conway with her daughter, Mayme, who so lovingly and kindly cares for her mother, live together in their comfortable home on Third Avenue South. Mrs. Conway also has 28 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

### Sunny Disposition

She has the characteristics of her country, a happy sunny disposition and the ready Irish wit. Among the other noted accomplishments is a mastery of the terpsichorean art, as was evidenced several years ago when at an entertainment, "A Trip Around the World" by local people at a number of homes in this city, she appeared in costume at the "Irish Village" at the home of Mrs. J. D. Witter. She did some Irish jigs and folk dances with the ease and grace of a young girl. She proved to be the big hit of the event.

### Husband Died in 1902

Mr. Conway sold his lands in Rudolph in 1898 which consisted of two of the finest big farms in Wood County, and retired from work and came to this city to live where he passed away at his home here March 29, 1902.

Mrs. Conway is a member of the SS. Peter & Paul's Catholic church and was one of the oldest ladies to cast her first ballot at the last election.

### To Grandma Conway

"Grandma Conway" is one of the best known residents of this city and is greatly loved and respected, not only by members of her family, but by her legion of friends, both young and old, who revere her for her many splendid qualities.

Grandma's not old, though of course when she walks,

She trembles a little and totters.

'Tis a way that she has, some old folks

she mocks,

She's sprier than some of her

daughters—

And wrinkles? Why yes, that is some

of her wiles

Upon her dear grandchildren squandered,

For wrinkles, you know, are but ripples

of smiles

That away from their moorings

have wandered."

FDU  
DI

BILL  
OF  
CATI  
DAY

Madi  
of educ  
built as  
of educ  
of the s  
the four  
legislat  
senate  
commit

The  
superint  
changed  
problem  
the star  
tively b  
place.

A nev  
ever, by  
Senator  
the stat  
tional e  
of contr  
exercise  
erintend

This n  
and C.  
ent of p  
vided fo  
vidation  
sions, in  
bly this  
looked f

A subst  
mo rear  
to the c  
backing  
resentat  
understa  
retary c

tion, sal  
would b  
the who  
The  
state are  
and the  
policies  
tion. It  
the origi

Senat  
substitut  
abolish t  
opinion  
should b  
cational

It was  
rick that  
a vital p  
of the st  
al polic  
detached  
fluence,  
developm

THE A  
Madiso  
becoming  
of the p  
board of  
complain  
are incre  
With t