

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.

Ferdinand Link



FERDINAND LINK

We have with us today, Ferdinand Link, who was born October 13, 1870 at Ottawa, Waushara county, Wisconsin, where he lived till he was twelve years of age. He is a son of Lawrence and Gertrude Link. His father was among the early settlers of Wisconsin, emigrating from Bavaria in 1836 and settling on a farm in Ottawa where he resided until his death March 9, 1874. His mother came to America with her parents during the year 1868, the family locating at Watertown.

Resided at Watertown

After the death of Mr. Link's father, and on November 1, 1882, Mrs. Link changed the family residence, moving to Watertown where Mr. Link finished his education, attending the Catholic Parochial school for one year.

For the following seven years, Ferd. was employed as a farm laborer on various farms in the surrounding localities. On July 16, 1892 he moved to Columbus where he was engaged as teamster for J. H. Kurth.

Entered Business

On March 1, 1893, Mr. Link again changed his residence to Watertown to enter the employ of H. C. Mayer, as clerk in his store. At the end of two months, he purchased the grocery store and conducted the business until 1898 when he disposed of the stock and purchased the meat market owned by William O'Connor. At the end of two years he purchased a second market, managing both until 1900 when he sold both meat markets and went to Bloomer to look up a new location.

Came to This City

Not finding anything which appealed to him, he was advised to come to this city and look over the business prospects here for the location of a meat market. His first night was spent in Centralia and his first meal in that city was eaten at the hotel owned and conducted by Clark Lyon, which was located at the corner of Grand and Second avenues south. The

he met W. C. Werle he formed a copartnership under the firm name of Link & Werle, and on July 1st of the same year opened a meat market in a building on First street north, directly west of the Reporter building.

Opened Market

After two days spent in Centralia and Grand Rapids, during which time he met W. C. Werle, with whom he formed a copartnership under the firm name of Link & Werle, and on July 1st of the same year opened a meat market in a building on First street north, directly west of the Reporter building.

Link & Werle conducted the market in this building for two years, when they changed their business location to the Gardner block in the building now occupied by the Sam Howard Variety Store. On July 1, 1911, they again moved, this time going into the building owned by John E. Daly, located just south of the previous location.

Bought Out Partner

On October 31, 1920, Mr. Link bought out his partner's business interest and now conducts the market in the Daly block as the F. Link Meat Market.

Mr. Link was the first meat merchant to install an ice machine in this city, purchasing and installing the first small machine manufactured by the American Carbonic Machinery Co., of this city.

Member Catholic Church

Mr. Link is one of the most earnest and devoted members of the St. Peter & Paul Catholic Church. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Foresters, having held various offices in the latter order. He is also a member of the Elk's lodge and the Order of Eagles.

He has been alderman of the second ward for the past six years. He is a member of the Board of Public Works and the Electric Light and Water Commission, and has been president of the Wisconsin Rapids Delivery Company since it was incorporated four years ago.

Married in 1898

On July 19, 1898 Mr. Link was united in marriage to Miss Carrie Ruff of Bloomer. They are the parents of five children, two sons and three daughters. They are Anita, Leonard, Florence, and their ten year old twins, Ruth and Richard.

Mr. Link is a man possessed of a kindly, genial nature, with an ever ready smile and a cordial greeting for his many friends. He is one of the progressive merchants of this city, alive to its interests and ever ready to help in any way toward its progress and betterment. In fact, he is a 100 percent Wisconsin Rapids booster.