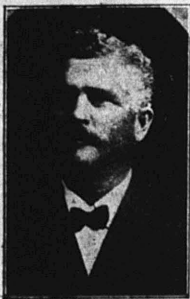


Who's Who In Wisconsin Rapids

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.

Frank Stahl



Frank Stahl

Frank Stahl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stahl, was born November 30, 1857 at St. Nazianz, Wis., where he lived until fifteen years of age. During this time he attended St. George's Catholic School, and after finishing there, he went to Milwaukee and entered St. Francis College where he studied for two years. He then returned home and taught in the German Catholic School at Steinthal, a small town near St. Nazianz.

In the year 1879, Mr. Stahl went to Marshfield and bought a tract of land located four miles east of that city. He cleared the land and built a small home. The entire surrounding country was then a dense forest, inhabited with wolves, bears and other wild animals. Mr. Stahl had no shades for the windows and on arising one morning saw sixteen wild deer within a hundred feet of the house. When they caught sight of him, they looked him over and ran away.

While teaching in Steinthal, Mr. Stahl boarded at the home of Christian Casper and family, which included a charming daughter, Elizabeth, whom the young school teacher wooed and won. In October 1880 she became his bride and returned with him to his farm near Marshfield where they resided for six years.

Elected Sheriff in 1886

In the year 1886 Mr. Stahl was elected delegate to the Wood County Democratic Convention which was held in this city, and returned home a candidate for sheriff to which office he was elected in November. In the latter part of December he moved his family here to the sheriff's home in basement of the Court House.

The other county officers elected at the same time were Jasper Crottau, Register of Deeds, William Hooper, County Clerk, Henry Kuntz, County Treasurer, Orrin Gray, Clerk of Circuit Court, George L. Williams County Judge, J. W. Cochran, District Attorney and George T. Rowland, County Superintendent of Schools. The only survivors at the present time are Geo. T. Rowland, Frank Stahl and Henry Kuntz, the others all having passed away.

Sheriff's Duties Light

Mr. Stahl appointed Nic Thomas as undersheriff. Business at the Court House was not as brisk as now a days. The county officers usually engaged in a few games of croquet and in the winter time would congregate in one of the offices and vie with one another in telling thrilling tales and experiences of by gone days.

There were many prisoners confined in the jail awaiting trial, among the number being one who was too stubborn to feed himself. Nic Thomas was given the duty of feeding him. One cold day, Mrs. Stahl prepared some nice hot soup for the prisoners and when Mr. Thomas conveyed the first spoonful to his friend's mouth, it burnt his tongue, which so enraged the prisoner that he blew the soup in Mr. Thomas' face. A lively scrap immediately followed in which chairs and other articles were used as weapons. The prisoner was finally conquered and Nic left the cell protesting he would never again serve as a waiter.

Handled Murder Case

It was also during this term of office that one of the few murder cases ever held in this county was tried. Miner Perkins, a cook in one of the lumber camps near Pittsville was being held for trial on the charge of murdering his wife. The case was never brought to court, as the day previous to the opening of the term, Perkins sent for Mr. Stahl and made a full confession of the crime, and asked to be taken before Circuit Judge C. A. Webb, to receive his sentence, and be taken

away as soon as possible, as he feared a mob would attack him. His request was granted, he was given a life term, and taken at once to Waupun where several years later he was released on parole.

At the expiration of his term as sheriff, Mr. Stahl decided to remain here, and formed a copartnership with Billy Kuntz and engaged in the harness business under the firm name of Stahl & Kuntz. They located in the building now occupied by G. Bruderli as a shoe shop. Mr. Stahl sold his interests in the business in 1886 he appeared on the Democratic ticket for the office of sheriff.

Entered Brewery Business

He was elected for the second time again appointing Nic Thomas as his undersheriff. At the end of his two year term of office, he entered into the brewery business with Richard Scheibe in the brewery located on the premises of the Daly Ice Coal Company. Due to poor management, this venture did not succeed and Mr. Stahl met with heavy finance reverses, losing practically all the money he had invested.

After this misfortune, through the advice and aid of his many friends he was elected City Treasurer which office he held for seven successive terms. He was the first City Treasurer following the consolidation of Centralia and Grand Rapids.

Mr. Stahl also owned a small grocery store near the Green Bay and Western depot which he conducted for three years when he sold it and has been in the employ of the Nekosa-Edwards company for the past eight years.

Injured at Mill

Mr. Stahl recently met with an accident at the mill, injuring his left hand and arm and at present he is unable to return to his work, but is daily improving and expects to be back on the job soon.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stahl, six daughters and one son, all of whom are married and still living. They are Mrs. J. D. Rice of Chicago, Mrs. Frank Schmeiting of Wausau, Mrs. Robert W. Morse of Stevens Point, Mrs. C. O. Burt, Mrs. F. D. Abel, Mrs. M.

C. Whitrock and Louis Stahl all of this city, Mrs. Stahl passed away September 18, 1893.

Mr. Stahl is a member of SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church and also a member of the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin and the Catholic Order of Foresters. He is a staunch Democrat, always having voted the straight ticket. He is a quiet, refined, industrious man and is among the number of highly respected citizens of Wisconsin Rapids.