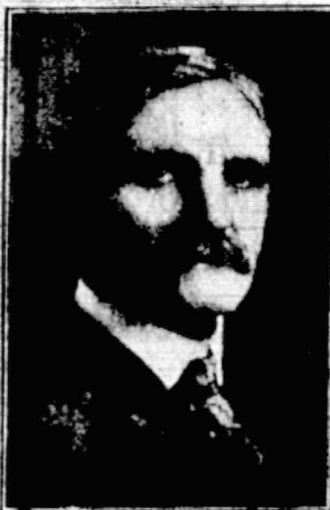


Who's Who In Wisconsin Rapids

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.

Fred Bossert



FRED BOSSERT

Among the honored and substantial citizens of Wisconsin Rapids is Fred Bossert, head of the Bossert Coal Co. and the Bossert Construction Co.

Mr. Bossert was born May 15, 1869 at Osseo, Hennipin County, Minn. His father, Gottlieb Bossert, emigrated to the United States from Basil, Switzerland in the year 1867. His mother was an American, citizen, her birthplace being Waterloo, Ill.

In the spring of 1869 the elder Bosserts moved with their infant son, who was less than a year old, to St. Francis, Minn., where they lived until Fred was seven years old, and where he attended the county schools. Their nearest and only neighbors were a family by the name of Wichie who took up a claim three miles west of the Bossert claim.

Few White Families

The entire population of the surrounding vicinity consisted of five white families and a number of Indians. Mr. Bossert states that he clearly remembers blazing a trail through the woods near his father's homestead. At that time there were no bridges in that locality and both people and animals forded the creek to get to and from the land on the opposite side.

After a residence of four years on the farm at St. Francis, the Bossert family again changed their residence going to Anoka, Minn., where they engaged in the hotel business, and where young Fred finished his education in the city schools when seventeen years old.

With Railroad

After leaving school, Mr. Bossert was employed for a year near St. Cloud, Minn., as grading contractor for the Manitoba Railway Co., now the Great Northern Railway Co. At the expiration of the year he returned to his home at Anoka where he engaged in the wholesale meat business for two and a half years.

The following nine months Mr. Bossert bought horses from the western markets, which he shipped and sold to the eastern buyers.

With Milling Concern

His next work was as foreman of the shipping department of the Occidental Flouring Mills at Minneapolis, serving in that capacity for three years when he was promoted to take charge of the elevators. He resigned

his position with the company in the spring of 1895, and on August 28 of the same year came to Wisconsin Rapids where he was engaged to take charge of the rye mill of the Jackson Milling Co.

Made Brooms

After a year's time he resigned that position to enter into a partnership with his brother Adam in the manufacture of brooms. The factory was located on Fremont Street near the McKinron residence. The brothers continued to manufacture brooms for five years when they changed their line of work and engaged in the concrete business.

In the fall of 1902 they took on the coal and wood business, continuing both lines ever since. From the time of engaging in the concrete work, up to the year 1915, Bossert Bros. built practically all the cement walks in the villages of Port Edwards and Nekoos, and over one-half of the cement walks in the city of Wisconsin Rapids.

Large Paving Concern

They have also built 49½ miles of concrete roads in this city and county, brick pavement and concrete base and asphalt over the new Grand Avenue bridge.

Mr. Bossert, in company with a Mr. Fenzel, opened the Bijou Theater located in the building on Grand Ave., now occupied by the Daly Music Co., which was one of the early film shows here. This venture did not prove very profitable and after a short run was closed down. Undaunted by their failure, they raised sufficient stock to build the Palace Theater which was run and managed as a stock company until it was sold several years ago.

Mr. Bossert is a member of the Congregational Church and a member of the Eastern Star and Masonic lodges, the B. P. O. E., Odd Fellows, Eagles and Woodmen of the World.

On September 12, 1889, Mr. Bossert married Miss Molly Ebert of Minneapolis. They are the parents of eleven children, nine daughters and two sons, four of whom are deceased. The children living are Mrs. Daniel Karnatz of Minneapolis, Mrs. Harry Leuben, Mrs. Arthur Eswein, the Misses Margaret, Mildred and Ruth Bossert and Earl Bossert, all of Wisconsin Rapids.

Is Fine Citizen

Mr. Bossert is fond of out door sports and thoroughly enjoys hunting and fishing trips, and through the summer months enjoys many fine Sunday motor trips with his family and friends. He is a man of charitable habits as is evidenced by his generosity to those in need.