

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.

Guy O. Babcock



GUY O. BABCOCK

The subject of today's sketch is Guy O. Babcock, cashier of the Wood County National Bank and one of central Wisconsin's prominent bankers. It is the story of the accomplishment of a man who came to Wisconsin Rapids to build his future and is filled with success of his work and his efforts.

Born in Appleton

Turning back the pages of time a few years, we learn that Guy O. Babcock is a native of the Badger state, being born in Appleton on January 22, 1871, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean C. Babcock. The family resided in Appleton for many years where Mr. Babcock received his early education. The father Dean C. Babcock, was a prominent attorney, practicing his profession in that city.

First Business Venture

Guy O. Babcock's first business venture was in North Dakota in the early days of settlement of the prairie state. In company with his brother, C. A. Babcock, now a prominent paper mill owner, and an aunt they went into the railroad restaurant business, operating in a small town. They soon found that business far from their liking and inclinations and sold out. After disposing of the business they returned to Appleton, where Mr. Babcock reentered the high school for a two year's course. Upon finishing his schooling, he went to Kaukauna to take up work in a mercantile establishment as clerk. Not finding that as a suitable profession he applied for a position in the First National Bank of Kaukauna and was accepted, becoming bookkeeper and collector. This was his first entrance to a career which led him to his present position in the financial realm of this district. Two years of hard and tedious work in the ranks of the bank brought him the reward of a position of assistant cashier, this at the remarkably young age of nineteen years. He continued to serve in that capacity until 1900, when he moved with his family to the west, taking up residence in Colorado Springs. He soon found an opening in the First National Bank of Colorado Springs, remaining with that institution for six years.

In August 1906, Mr. Babcock heeded the call to return to his native state coming to Wisconsin Rapids with his family to become the cashier of the Wood County National Bank. Mr. Babcock was soon recognized for his ability as an executive, demonstrating his capacity in his official position as well as in positions of public trust. His services have been much in demand here and he has given himself unselfishly to serve in many lines of community activity.

Organized Banks

He was quick to sense the possibilities of this region and proved his faith in the progress of this state by developing a number of the smaller banking institutions in this community. He was one of the organizers of the Dairyman's State Bank of Arpin and the Farmer's State Bank of Rudolph, serving as officer and director in both of these institutions. Mr. Babcock and his associates purchased the controlling interest in Vesper State Bank and under their guidance this institution as well as the others have continued to grow and prosper. The Nekosia State Bank was organized by Mr. Babcock and his associates and he was the choice for president holding that position since the organization. Even though he is being continually called upon for matters of a public nature and as well as being engrossed with the affairs of the Wood County National Bank, Mr. Babcock has found time to devote to aid and direct the policies and business of these outlying financial institutions, which owe much of their progress to his excellent counsel. Besides his banking connections, Mr. Babcock is interested in several other business institutions serving as director and officer.

In Public Work

During the war, Mr. Babcock was

prominent in various campaigns and drives, taking an active part in the war campaigns, in the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Y. M. C. A. and other organizations. He was one of the members of the executive committee of the drive for the Riverview Hospital when \$20,000 was raised for the benefit of that worthy institution.

He served for several years as a director of the Chamber of Commerce and always takes an active interest in the affairs of commercial development in this city. He has served for several years as a member of the Board of Education and has held the presidency of that body for four terms. He has shown himself a staunch citizen in working for the interest of better schools and a high grade of education for Wisconsin Rapids.

Prominent in Lodges

Besides his many business affiliations, Mr. Babcock is prominent in the lodge affairs of this city. He is a member of the Masonic order serving once as Worshipful Master of the lodge, and is a member of the Chapter and Commandry of the order. He is also an Elk and was one of the charter members of the Rotary Club of Wisconsin Rapids, serving as the second president of the club. It was during his administration that the club was expanded and developed into a strong association.

Married in 1891

On October 9, 1894, Mr. Babcock was united in marriage to Winifred Chamberlain of Kaukauna at that city. They have two sons, Charles Harold Babcock of the town of Hiles and Dean C. Babcock of Clintonville, both of whom are now married and established in their own homes, where they are successfully engaged in business. Mr. and Mrs. Babcock are prominent members of the social circles of the city and are counted as among the most popular citizens of Wisconsin Rapids. Mrs. Babcock being prominent in social and club work here.

Splendid Type of Citizen

Mr. Babcock is a member of the Congregational church of this city and one of its most loyal and devout members. He has taken an active part in the affairs of the church and in the work. Mr. Babcock represents the type of red blooded, loyal citizens,

whose principles are of the highest and whose personality is of the most pleasing and attractive.