

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. Hannah Doland Akey



MRS. HANNAH DOLAN AKEY

In presenting the early citizens of this city to our readers each week, we find many interesting subjects, both men and women who came here when the city was in its primitive state. There are many who have become enriched and there are still others who have not accumulated so much of the worldly goods, but who, by their thrift and steady work, have been able to lay by enough to live in comfort in their declining years.

Not least among the many women of interest who have come to make their homes in the United States is Hannah Dolan Akey, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Dolan, who was born in Emily, Ontario, January 13, 1863. When seventeen years of age, Miss Dolan left the country of her birth and came to this state with her parents and settled in Centralia.

Many Indians

On the day of their arrival in town the first object that greeted her sight was a yoke of oxen hitched to a sleigh drawing a load of wood. This was truly a novel sight as she had never seen this means of conveyance before. Her next experience was during her first Sunday in the town when she walked down to the river bank to see the rafts of lumber. She was afraid to venture out of doors alone after dark on account of there being so many rough lumberjacks and wild Indians.

The town did not present a very attractive appearance to her. It seemed so small and unpretentious. There were no buildings between the present St. Paul and Northwestern stations, except a log shanty and a small frame house, the latter being occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Goodman.

The first residence occupied by the Dolan family was a small photograph studio building, situated on the property now owned and occupied by the Citizens National Bank. They lived in this building about two months when they moved into more comfortable quarters in a building next door east.

Soon after coming here, Hannah was employed by Mike Vaughn, a tailor, where she worked in the shop over the old Garrison and Whitley store, at the corner of Grand Avenue and Third Avenue North. She remained in Mr. Vaughn's employ for a year and a half when she was employed by M. J. McRaith in his tailor shop in Grand Rapids.

Married in 1882

On August 1, 1882, she was united in marriage to Eugene Akey, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Akey of Rudolph. The young couple immediately began housekeeping in the second story of a frame building located on the grounds where the buildings occupied by the Daly Music Company and the Wisconsin Rapids Bakery now stand. The former building has been moved farther up Grand Avenue and is now known as the Blue Front. Mr. Akey next bought a home on Fourth Avenue North, where the family resided until the house and contents were later burned to the ground. After this misfortune, they moved into the upper story of the Charles Briere, Sr. property located on First Avenue North. The lower story was occupied by the late Mrs. C. H. Nisson as a millinery store. They lived in the Briere building about four months when they bought the Chase House property next to the Palace theater where they kept boarders for six years.

When Mrs. Akey came to Centralia, the late Nels Johnson was postmaster and J. W. Natwick was the clerk. At that time all public entertainments in Centralia were held in the Garrison Hall over their store building. All the churches on the west side have been built since Mrs. Akey came here.

Held Sewing Bees

The popular afternoon entertainments for the ladies were rag bees and usually consisted of a company of twenty-five ladies or more who would

surprise one of their friends and come armed with needle, thread and carpet rags. Their tongues and needles both worked swiftly in the mad race to see which would have the largest ball of rags sewed at the close of the afternoon. All work then had to be laid aside and a bounteous picnic lunch was served and when the day was done, the ladies left for their homes, all eagerly looking forward to the time for the next bee.

Another popular enjoyment was the sleighrides in the winter to Stevens Point, when a crowd of ladies would pile into a sleigh, with seats on both sides and "merrily roll along" to the neighboring city where they would have dinner at the Curran House. They would then return to their homes usually arriving late at night after a happy day.

Mrs. Akey is the mother of three children, two of whom are still living, one daughter, Mrs. James Brockman of this city and a son, Cleve Akey who lives in Port Edwards. Another daughter, Ivah, died at the age of eighteen.

Mrs. Akey was left alone many years ago with the care of her family, and has worked hard to educate them and otherwise give them a good bringing up. She is one of the first business women in the city and has proven her success. She has been in the same building she now occupies for the past thirty-two years and has built up a fine business, and the Hannah Akey Restaurant is one of the best known restaurants in the city. She also has a number of roomers who enjoy their rest in her clean and comfortable rooms.

Member Lodges

With her busy life, she finds time for religious and social duties. She is a member of SS, Peter & Paul's Catholic church and the ladies aid society of that congregation. She is also a member of the E. F. U. and other social clubs. She is an enthusiastic prohibitionist and was very happy when the country went dry. She is a suffragist, firmly believing in equal rights, and was greatly enjoyed when she could cast her ballot. She says that while she was so homesick years ago for her home land, that today she would not give up her adopted country to return there. The many who know her are proud to number her among the residents of Wisconsin Rapids.

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as has been done previously. An amendment offered by L. Trossen to the effect that the municipalities concerned should be relieved of paying their forty per cent share nullified the original resolution and was carried by a vote of 24 to 19, thus relieving Auburndale of forty per cent of the county's share, in the cost of construction of the road.

Keiffer Resolution

The amendment mentioned above met with the opposition of board members from towns which have already paid in varying amounts in Federal Aid projects. To assure these towns of a square deal, J. C. Keiffer of the Town of Auburndale offered the following resolution which was passed:

"Whereas, It is deemed necessary to allot a part of the Federal Aid Construction money to complete the construction project under bond issue for 1921 in the Town and Village of Auburndale and it has been the policy of the county to charge the municipality through which the Federal Aid Construction passes a proportionate share of the county's share of the Federal Aid Construction, and

"Whereas, When the bond issue for concrete roads was passed, it was understood there should be no further tax for bond issue construction in the several municipalities through which the roads pass, therefore,

Be It Resolved, That now and hereafter any deficits on bond issue construction be borne by the county as a whole, and

"Be It Further Resolved, That the towns that have already been assessed under Federal Aid Construction be reimbursed to the extent of the money assessed them in so far as a like amount is hereby appropriated to those towns for construction on the system of state highways in those towns, to-wit:

Town of Saratoga, \$3,200.00.

Town of Grand Rapids, \$2,000.00.

City of Marshfield, \$3,000.00.

"The location to be decided upon by the County State Road and Bridge Committee.

"Dated April 23, 1921."

PYTHIAN MEET AT TOMAH

Tomah—The state conservation of the order of Pythian Sisters meets in Tomah on June 20, 21, and 22. Visiting delegates are to be entertained by Charity Temple, No. 15, of Tomah.