

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.

James Edward Brazeau



JAMES EDWARD BRAZEAU

One of the leading citizens of the village of Nekoosa is James Edward Brazeau, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Brazeau, who were early residents of Grand Rapids. He was born May 13, 1870, in Wisconsin Rapids, where he received his education, graduating with the Howe High school class of 1886. B. R. Goggins, prominent local attorney, was principal of the school at the time.

At the age of thirteen Mr. Brazeau began working after school hours in his father's barber shop, which was located in the small woden building north of the Hotel Witter recently vacated by the Wisconsin Supply Co. After eighteen months service with father, he entered the employ of J. W. Freeman in his grocery store in the building directly south of his father's shop. The Freeman store was then the only grocery store in the town.

After leaving the Freeman employ, Mr. Brazeau left for Chicago where he remained a year and was employed at odd jobs. On this return here he again

assisted his father in the barber shop for one year, between the years of 1888 and 1889.

Formed Partnership

In the fall of 1889 he left for Port Edwards where he was employed as clerk in the Brazeau Bros. General Store which was owned and operated by his two brothers, George and William. George, the eldest is now a retired ranchman living in Buhl, Idaho. The younger, William, is at present sales manager for the Inland Paper Company at Spokane, Wash. Mr. Brazeau remained in the employ of his brothers until April, 1901 when he changed his location to Nekoosa to become associated with his brother Frank, now postmaster of Port Edwards, and his brother William. The three formed a copartnership known as the Brazeau Mercantile Co.

Edward later bought his brother's interests and became the sole owner and proprietor. Although his personal business interests demand the greater share of his attention, Mr. Brazeau has found time to devote in helping in the advancement and improvement of the beautiful little village down river. He served as president of the village of Nekoosa during the year 1905.

Active In Civic Affairs

He is a charter member of the wide awake and hustling Chamber of Commerce of the village. He was one of the most active members in the building of the swimming pool and the tourist camp which are both a great addition to Nekoosa.

He served for three years on the school board and the new Alexander High School shows the educational advancements which have been made in Nekoosa with its corps of efficient teachers. Mr. Brazeau is a stockholder

and a member of the Board of Directors of the Nekoosa State Bank.

He is a member of the Masonic Order and the order of the Eastern Star. He also belongs to the I. O. O. F., the B. P. O. E. and the W. O. W.

On March 26, 1893, Mr. Brazeau was united in marriage to Kathryn Young, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Young of Grand Rapids. Mr. Brazeau's father at the time was county-clerk of Wood county. Mrs. Brazeau died October 5, 1914. Two children were born to them, the eldest, a son, Stanton who has just been graduated from the state university at Champaign, Ill. The youngest is a daughter, Bernice, eight and a half years of age.

On November 2, 1919, Mr. Brazeau again married, his bride being Miss Anna Roth of Chicago, Ill.

Besides his three brothers, Frank, George and William, already mentioned, he has one other brother, Attorney Theo. W. Brazeau, of Wisconsin Rapids, who has a well earned reputation of being one of the ablest lawyers in the state of Wisconsin. Mr. Brazeau has three sisters, Mrs. Helen Quin, Mrs. J. J. Canning of Wisconsin Rapids and Mrs. George Zenier of Asotin, Wash.