

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.

Prof. M. H. Jackson

No citizen is better known to the people of Wisconsin Rapids and Wood county than is Merwin H. Jackson, principal of the Wood County Normal school.

Asked by a member of The Tribune staff for a sketch of his life and work, Professor Jackson said:

"I would much prefer telling you about my future, for that is vital. The past is valuable only as it furnishes a basis for future action.



Prof. M. H. Jackson

"I was born August 26, 1863, near Green Bay, Wisconsin, for which I claim no credit. The fact that I have always lived in Wisconsin, and shall always live in Wisconsin, may reflect credit on my good judgment. I am one of 32,000 or more good people who know a good county when we see it, for I have lived in Wood county for eighteen years.

Owes All to Mother

"My father died in the service during the Civil War, leaving my mother to bring up three small children, of whom I was the youngest, only two years of age. Right here, before claiming any credit to myself for any success I may have attained, I want to say that my mother, now ninety-two years of age, did it all. It was her courage and fortitude in rearing the little family that has been the vivifying influence in the lives of my brother and myself.

Moved to Waukesha

"At the death of my father our little family moved to Waukesha county, where I attended a country school winters and summers until I was ten years of age, and winters until I was sixteen, passing under the influence of an array of eighteen different teachers. At the end of my district school experience, I might have been rated as a fifth grade pupil as judged by present day standards. I was long on Arithmetic and short on everything else. Then away to an academy, ten miles distant, where I caught my first glimpse of the possibilities beyond. It was a Christian academy, with the highest ideals. The school as an institution has long since passed away, but the influence of Rochester academy and its student life still goes on.

Use Opportunities

"I am not a self-made man, no one is self-made. The provisions of society in our country are such that a person can avail himself of unusual means of preparation, but my advice to youth is to take advantage of the opportunities for an education which are freely offered.

"Necessity seemed to require that my bachelor of science diploma be earned through individual effort. It has often been said that a certain independence of action is thus acquired, but statistics show that the same energy through prepared and well defined channels produces quicker and better results.

Always Been Teacher

"Who have I been? Let me see, yes, I have taught in rural schools, city grades, state graded schools, high schools, state normal schools during the summer sessions, and have long been at the Wood County Normal school."

Prof. H. Jackson has been honored with numerous elections to offices in teachers' associations, and civic organizations. His favorite form of service is to lecture in a little country school house, if he thinks that by so doing he may inspire children with the desire to build up big lives for themselves.

Prof. H. Jackson was married August 7, 1886, at the age of twenty three, and began housekeeping immediately in East Troy, where he was teaching at the time.

Traveled Abroad

In 1910 he journeyed through England, France, Germany, Italy, and Greece, and four years later again crossed the sea, visiting Scotland and Ireland. He paid particular attention to art and kindred subjects while abroad, and since his return has been much in demand as a lecturer. He has spoken for the extension courses of the State University, and also from the platforms of the White and Myer and Mutual Chautauquias.

Professor Jackson is the oldest educator in the county in point of service, having been principal of the Wood County Normal since its organization in 1903. He has always taken an active interest in the affairs of the community, in addition to doing much toward the building up of the normal school.

He is a member of a number of fraternal societies, is active in the

Congregational church, and belongs to several civic and social clubs. His breadth of mind and democracy have made him universally popular.