

# 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.

## Chief R. S. Payne



**ROLAND SILAS PAYNE**

Roland Silas Payne, Chief of Police of the city of Wisconsin Rapids, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Silas A. Payne. His father was born in Syracuse, N. Y., and his mother's birthplace was Joliet, Ill. Both parents came to Wisconsin in 1860, settling in Saratoga where they were married after the return of Mr. Payne from the Civil war.

Their son, Roland Silas Payne, was born in the town of Seneca, October 25, 1874, where his parents resided on a farm, and where he lived and attended the country schools. He later entered the Centralia High School remaining as a pupil until the spring of 1888.

### Moved to South Side

In the meantime, his parents had moved from their farm in Seneca, to South Centralia where they conducted a boarding house until the death of Mr. Payne in February, 1902. In October, 1889, Mr. Payne entered the employ of the Centralia Pulp & Water Power Co. at South Centralia and worked in their pulp mill for one year.

The year following, the company built a paper mill in addition to their pulp mill, and when operations were commenced, Mr. Payne began work in the new mill and helped remove the first roll of paper ever taken off a paper machine in the Wisconsin state.

### Worked in Woods

After three years work in the paper mill, Mr. Payne decided to do outside work, owing to ill health, and he worked one year in the woods for the Daly & Sampson Lumber Co., and the following spring he worked on the log drive on the Willow and Tomahawk rivers.

The following year Mr. Payne was employed by the Tomahawk Pulp & Paper company in their new mill at Tomahawk, being the first mill of the kind built there. He worked on the paper machine for the company for a short time, when he returned to South Centralia and again entered the employ of the Centralia Pulp & Water Power Company as a machine tender, until the mill burned to the ground in May, 1912.

He was next employed by the county as foreman of the construction of the power plant which is now owned by the Nelson & Edwards Paper Company.

### Became Chief in 1917

In October, 1912, Mr. Payne took the civil service examination for patrolman of police department and was appointed a patrolman on the police force of this city, beginning his duties February 12, 1913 and working as such until the resignation of James Gibson as chief of police, who retired from his office June 17, 1917. Mr. Payne was then promoted to the office of chief of police by the Police and Fire Commission, and is still serving in that capacity.

### Made Good Officer

Mr. Payne has a keen instinct for locating criminals and other offenders of the law, and ever since his promotion to the office of chief, has arrested many criminals. Among the most noted arrests was that of the four young people who drove to this city from Marshfield on the night of October 12, 1915 and after entering the Guy-Getts pool hall, where they secured a quantity of candy, cigars and cigarettes, went to the Reichel Jewelry Store, which was then located in the building now occupied by the Rene Hat Shop, and threw a large stone through the window and took all the display goods in both the large front windows.

### Were Sent Over

Edward Potter, who was on the street at the time, reported to the chief of having seen a rig drive up Third Avenue with four suspicious looking occupants. He and the Chief followed them in the Potter automobile and soon captured them, and brought them back to the city where the stolen goods were returned to the owners and three of the party were sentenced to the Green Bay Reformatory. The fourth was sentenced to serve a term in the state prison at Waupun.

Chief Payne was also instrumental in the recovery of twelve hundred dollars worth of linen and wearing apparel stolen in Minneapolis in 1920 and recovered from Minneapolis parties stopping at one of the local hotels.

### Apprehended Many Criminals

The past year, he was also successful in apprehending the criminals who robbed the Soo passenger station on the night of October 20, 1921, and he also brought to justice the person who broke into and robbed the till of the Green Bay & Western station on the night of November 24, 1921.

Among the large number of automobiles stolen in this city, Mr. Payne has recovered every machine which has been returned to its owner and had the thieves convicted.

### Was Former Alderman

Chief Payne served as alderman of the eighth ward of this city from 1908 to 1913, when he resigned to become a member of the police force.

Mr. Payne is not a member of any religious sect or creed, but lives to follow the golden rule as his belief. The only fraternal order to which he belongs, is the Order of Eagles, being a member of the local lodge. He is a member of the Resolutions Committee of the State Police Chiefs Association.

He is not active in politics, but has been a life long republican.

### Married in 1902

On October 15, 1902, Roland Silas Payne was united in marriage to Miss Emma Binnebose of this city. They are the parents of one child, their daughter, Lola, sixteen years of age.

Chief Payne is a correspondent student of the University of Applied Science of Chicago and is specializing in the finger print course, which he expects to finish in June this year.