

# 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.

## William A. Drumb



WILLIAM A. DRUMB

William A. Drumb, son of Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Adams Drumb of Peoria, Ill., was born in that city March 13, 1866.

When a year old his father died and his mother, with her infant son, left Peoria and moved to Farmington, Ill., where they resided with relatives for a few years. They then moved to Des Moines, Ia., where they resided for a short time and then went to Marshalltown, Ia., where they lived for a year and where Mr. Drumb first attended school. They again changed their location to Clinton, Ia., where after a stay of two years moved to Chicago, Ill., then a city of 300,000 inhabitants.

### Was Chicago Newsboy

Mr. Drumb attended the fall and winter terms of the city graded school and during the winter months was employed for a short time as cash boy in the Boston Store. After his service as cash boy, Mr. Drumb became one of the first newsies to sell the Chicago Daily News which had started its publication, and was the first penny newspaper ever sold and was a big innovation to the reading public. He continued his work as news boy for three years when he left Chicago for Bloomington, Ill., where he finished his education in the eighth grade school of that city.

### Moved to Wisconsin

When fourteen years of age, Mr. Drumb's mother died and he left Bloomington moving to Bailey's Harbor, north of Sturgeon Bay, where he lived for three and one-half years, working in the woods during the winters and loading vessels during the summer months.

### Became "Printer's Devil"

He again changed his residence to Sturgeon Bay where he was employed as "printer's devil" on the Sturgeon Bay Advocate. During his five years service with the paper he was promoted from time to time until he held the responsible position as foreman of the mechanical department.

During the summer of 1892 the time of the world's fair at Chicago, Mr. Drumb was one of the reporters on the Inter Ocean.

In 1896 Mr. Drumb was foreman in the news room and also reporter of the Green Bay Gazette. In 1897 he worked in job offices at both Oshkosh and Milwaukee.

### Interested in Photography

During the time he was employed on the Sturgeon Bay Advocate, Mr. Drumb became interested in photography and bought a studio there which he operated for nine years when he sold to O. R. Moore, now one of his business associates of this city, and who learned his trade from Mr. Drumb.

After disposing of the studio at Sturgeon Bay he moved to Marshfield to become foreman of the Marshfield Weekly News, owned and edited by the late Adam Paulus, remaining there for two and a half years.

### Bought Weekly Tribune

In the year 1900 he came to Wisconsin Rapids and together with A. B. Sutor, also of this city, bought the Grand Rapids Tribune of which the late E. B. Brundage was the owner and publisher. The paper was edited by Drumb & Sutor until March 1, 1920 when the business was sold to the present owner and publisher, William F. Huffman, who previously bought the Wisconsin Valley Leader. The two publications were then merged into the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune.

### Took Western Trip

Shortly after disposing of his newspaper business, Mr. Drumb also sold his residence property on Fourth Street South and left with his wife and daughter and son, Isabel and Frank, on a motor trip along the western coast with a view of finding a new location. However, the west did not appeal to him sufficiently to hold him and he returned to Wisconsin Rapids where he remained a few months then went to Oconto where he purchased a photograph studio and conducted the business there for eight months, but

the lure of this city brought him back here and he bought back his residence property and also purchased the photo studio of O. P. Menzel where he may be found every day, happy and content in his work.

### Is Prominent Here

Mr. Drumb was president for nine years of the Wood County Telephone Co. His politics are very well known as the Grand Rapids Tribune always stood firm for the democrat party and its principles. He is not a great joiner, the only fraternal societies to which he belongs include the Elks, W. O. W., and E. F. U.

On December 16, 1887, Mr. Drumb was united in marriage to Miss Isabel Laurie of Sturgeon Bay. Three children have been born to them, two daughters, Mrs. Sidney Brooks of Nekeosa and Miss Isabel Drumb and one son Frank Drumb both of Wisconsin Rapids. Frank is head of the employment department of the Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co.

Mr. Drumb is one of those democratic men, who is known more as Will Drumb to his host of friends than by any other name. He is possessed with a good sense of humor, a pleasing personality and amiable disposition which have won for him a wide acquaintance. He is noted for his frank manner, his good reasoning steady ways. Taken all in all he is a man among men and one of the city's popular citizens.