

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.

Francis Xavier Pomainville



DR. FRANCIS XAVIER POMAINVILLE

Dr. Francis Xavier Pomainville, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pomainville, (both deceased), was born in Wisconsin Rapids, August 11, 1871. He received his early education in the public schools in this city, graduating from the old Howe High School with the class of 1889. He was later a student for three years at the State University at Madison, after which he entered the Rush Medical College at Chicago, Ill., from where he graduated in May, 1889.

Began Practice Here

After finishing the medical course at Rush Medical College, Dr. Pomainville returned to this city and began practicing his profession. His first office was in what is now the Hotel Witter annex. It was then occupied as a store, owned and operated by C. H. Sleeman with the office of Dr. G. F. Witter in the rear. Dr. Pomainville continued his practice with his office in that building for several years, from where he removed to his present offices located in the building recently vacated by the First National Bank.

Was Mayor of City

Dr. Pomainville is a man who has always been active in matters pertaining to the interests and welfare of this city. He served on the school board for a number of years and was president of the board for one year, resigning from that office to become the mayor of this city, to which office he was elected in the spring of 1909. During his term as mayor he was instrumental in securing several improvements to the city, among which may be mentioned the street car line, the beginning of the river bank park system, the drainage ditch on the marsh lands north of the city, and the building of the reservoir in the river bank on Third street south.

Was Assemblyman Nominee

Dr. Pomainville ran on the Democratic ticket for the office of assemblyman, but was beaten by a small majority by his opponent, C. R. Goldsworthy of Vesper.

When the cities of Grand Rapids and Centralia consolidated, Dr. Pomainville was appointed health officer by B. R. Goggins, the first mayor elected after the uniting of the cities. He has held this office almost continuously ever since up to the present time, with the exception of his term as mayor, his absence overseas during the late war, and also during the term of mayor filled by E. W. Ellis.

Hundred Per Cent American

Dr. Pomainville is a hundred per cent American, proving his loyalty as such: when he left his home and family June 4, 1917 to serve with the 5th

and 6th Field Artillery to sail overseas and engage in the late world war. He served with them for several months, while the Americans were training behind the French line, and was subsequently transferred to the medical supply department, which furnished the troops and hospitals with medical supplies.

A few days following the armistice he was promoted to the office of Major and made medical supply officer of Base Section 6, serving in that capacity until ordered home. He returned with the 42nd Division. He was honorably discharged from the service April 22, 1919.

Does Philanthropic Work

Dr. Pomainville is chairman of the committee for the present Salvation Army drive, and is a most zealous worker for the cause, fully realizing the splendid work done by these people for this country in his hour of need. He is one of the best known physicians in this city and has a large practice in this profession. He is a leader, not only with his medical knowledge, but also with his kind words and deeds. He is a man of keen wit and a lover of out door sports and a christian gentleman.

He is a member of SS. Peter & Paul's Catholic church, also a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Order of Foresters, the B. P. O. E. and the Eagles, and a most enthusiastic member of the American Legion. He served the past year as Post Commander of the Charles Hagerstrom Post No. 9 of this city. He is independent of any party line in his political views, but has a preference for the Democratic party, though not always voting the straight ticket.

On October 30, 1899, Dr. Pomainville was married to Miss May Goggins of this city, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Goggins. They are the parents of four children, one son, Francis and three daughters, Margaret, Janet, and Caroline.