

Dudley Trout Preserve Had National Fame

No record of the early settlers of Lincoln county would be complete without the mention of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dudley. The Dudleys are among the earliest settlers here to still tarry with us.

Mrs. Henry Dudley, nee Augusta Ristow, was born in what is now Marathon county, March 26, 1854. She left home to earn her living when twelve years old, came to Jenny, and entered into the employ of Mr. and Mrs. George Strowbridge, early settlers here. Later she worked for Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Mathews, where she first met Henry Dudley, also employed by the Mathews.

Mr. Henry Dudley was born in Jefferson county, about 8 miles from Watertown, Aug. 13, 1848.

In his teens Mr. Dudley came to Wausau to engage in floating lumber down the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers to the lumber market at St. Louis.

It was the habit in those days for farm boys to go up into the "pinery", in the spring, to help float lumber to market.

In 1870, Mr. Dudley came to Jenny to become a permanent resident of this county.

On December 9, 1873, Miss Augusta Ristow and Mr. Henry Dudley were married, and the next day the newlyweds moved out on Newwood to a logging camp operated by T. P. Mathews, Mrs. Dudley to cook for the crew, and Henry to drive a team of horses, hauling logs.

In the spring they moved back to the village, and continued their employment for Mr. Mathews; Mrs. Dudley as maid of all work; and Mr. Dudley as an all-around work. They continued their employment with Mr. Mathews to either 1875 or 1876, when they moved to Dudley into a set of logging camps owned by their former employer; and there they have remained ever since, as builders and community workers as well. If women and children were sick, Mrs. Dudley was on hand as nurse and counselor. If a barn was to be raised by a new settler, or a piece of ground to be plowed, Mr. Dudley was there to help.

For several years Mr. Scott and M. H. McCord, two influential men with the authorities at Madison, and had these men get a shipment of trout fry to be planted in Prairie river. That is how trout were introduced into the waters of upper Wisconsin.

For several years Mr. Dudley engaged in logging, as well as developing a farm, having acquired some five hundred acres of land. Mr. Dudley induced the government to establish a post office in the new settlement, and for many years acted as postmaster. For about 8 years he operated a stage line between Jenny and his home. When a settlement was started at Rhineland he extended his stage line to Rhineland.

The road from Jenny to Rhineland was barely a good tote road. Ruts, stones and crooks in the road were the features. It took a good team from 12 to 14 hours to bring a load from Jenny to Dudley. Now the trip is made with a loaded truck in about 30 minutes.

Mr. McCord had a doctor and his wife from Omaha, Nebraska to visit him in Jenny. Mr. McCord took the doctor and his wife up to Dudley to show them the trout stream. The doctor's wife suggested to Mr. Dudley to build a resort for the accommodation of trout fishers, who were sure to come soon.

Mr. Dudley acted on the suggestion, and enlarged the residence he had already built, for a commodious resort, which in a few years became nationally known throughout the country. Trout fishers came from the far west and the east, besides from cities nearer by.

Dr. W. Cook Daniels and his wife, of Denver, Colorado, spent several seasons at Dudley. The doctor had Mr. Dudley build him a log cabin where now the Dudley residence stands.

Dr. Daniels was a scientist of great learning. He made his own flies, and knew what kind of natural flies would hatch the next day and their color and shape. Dr. Daniels was a world traveler as well as a scientist. He had fished in the trout waters of his

home state, Colorado and in foreign countries, England, France, Germany, Norway, Switzerland, and in trout streams in Africa. Dr. Daniels pronounced the Prairie river the most beautiful trout stream in the world.

John Corwin and Lary St. John of the Chicago Tribune were for many years regular visitors at Dudley. Other noted Chicagoans came here in quest of trout. John R. Foster, of Lost Nation, Iowa, was a regular summer visitor at Dudley for many years.

In the more than half a century in which the Dudleys have lived where they are, and in conducting the resort business, Mrs. Dudley has cooked thousands upon thousands of meals for hungry trout fishers and travelers. Her culinary art was known from ocean to ocean. Give Mrs. Dudley some flour and a piece of salt pork, and when the dishes she had created from these two things, with some tea or coffee, were set down on the table you had a meal fit for a King.

All his life Mr. Dudley has been a true conservationist. He has preached the preservation of the fauna of this region, and the scrubbery that grew on the banks of his beloved Prairie river. But ignorant vandals have continued the destruction just the same.

President Roosevelt should establish a C.C.C. camp up near Dudley to acquire the land bordering on Prairie river, say two or three rods on the sides, improve the trout streams of Lincoln county by creating pools, etc.; and in fact to restore the troutstreams of Lincoln county to their ancient prestige and beauty.

Mr. and Mrs. Dudley have reared six children, they are: Mrs. Olive Hall, Cady, S. D.; Mrs. Sarah Critchfield, Wheaton, Ill.; Mrs. Pearl Van Hecke, Merrill; Walter, of Chicago; Richard, at Dudley; and Harris.

Mrs. Dudley celebrated her eightieth birthday on the 25 of March this year. Mr. Dudley celebrated his eighty-sixth birthday on Aug. 13, last.

Mr. and Mrs. Dudley are still in the possession of their mental faculties and are hale and hearty. While Mr. and Mrs. Dudley have lived many years, they have not grown old.

They have played the game of life in a commendable manner; doing to their fellow citizens what they hoped they would do to themselves.

That is all that is worthwhile in life any way. The Herald congratulates the Dudleys and wishes them many more years of usefulness.

THE ROBARGE BUILDING



The modern in retail store fronts is illustrated here in this new building occupied by Montgomery Ward & Co.

BARN SUPPLY CONCERN ONE OF CITY'S NEWEST

The Merrill Equipment company, one of Merrill's newest manufacturing concerns, came to this city in 1927 as the Fitzgerald Manufacturing company.

Local business men succeeded in having the equipment moved to Merrill from Kibbourn with a new local organization taking over the business.

In 1922 the company had an assignment and was reorganized as a partnership under its present name, with George Gilkey, George M. Anson and John O'Day in the

firm, and D. J. McMahon as manager.

Although the company's line has been rather inactive in recent years due to business conditions and particularly the drouth, which handicapped farmers in their building and installations, it has been kept alive in the realization that as times improve many farmers will be needing its products.

The company's main field is farm and barn equipment. It manufactures stanchions, stalls, cattle pens, and litter carriers, and

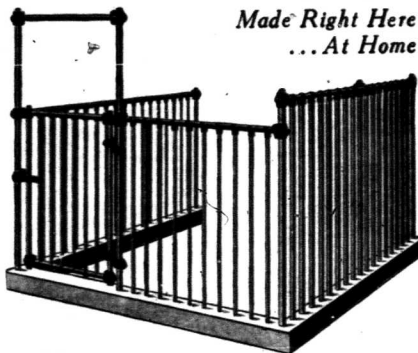
also sells water tanks, water bowls, roofing, fencing, and almost everything that a farmer needs on his farm.

This company also is the original maker of the Anchor Boat Dock, a portable dock invented by Otto Bergman of the Bergman Machine Shop in Merrill. Although this product is a luxury item, and handicapped by depressed conditions, it has had its best sales this year and has proved to be a valuable line. The dock is constructed for easy taking down and storage over winter.

A display of the company's products may be seen in the window of the Boston Store building where it rents display space.

Better Barn Equipment

Made Right Here
... At Home



STANCHIONS... STALLS... PENS

LITTER CARRIERS... TANKS

WATER BOWLS

TELEPHONE 814

MERRILL EQUIPMENT COMPANY