

Princeton "Scenes from the Past" When Princeton Became a City and the Early Government Days

Continuing from the June 8th article "In the Beginning", Princeton continued to grow and soon pursued Incorporation as a City vs. a Village. The Article of Incorporation issued to the City states, "Whereas Albert H. Rimpler, Village Clerk of the Village of Princeton, Green Lake County, Wisconsin has certified to the Secretary of the State that the Village trustees of the Village of Princeton on the 4th day of March 1920, duly passed a resolution by unanimous vote of the members thereof for the purpose of becoming a city of the fourth class and fixing the number and boundary of the wards into which said city was to be divided, and fixing the time for holding the first city election therein, and naming the election officials to conduct the same. And, Whereas the City Clerk has likewise certified to the Secretary of the State the result of the census taken in said territory two weeks prior to the fourth day of March 1920, showing that the total number of inhabitants residing in said territory exceeds twelve hundred, and where as all proceedings leading up to and including the first city election and taking of said census have been duly and legally taken. Now therefore, by the virtue of the proceeding taken and the statute in such case made and provided Emanuel Philipp Governor of Wisconsin declared it to be the City of Princeton on 29th day of April 1920.

At the first election Erich Mueller was voted in as the First Mayor of the City of Princeton serving a term from 1920 – 1928. Although Erich Mueller is buried in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, many of his descendants are buried in the city cemetery including his son Dr. G G Mueller & his wife Edith Schonberg Mueller. The Mueller family will be one of the families included in the Cemetery Walking Tour on August 26th.

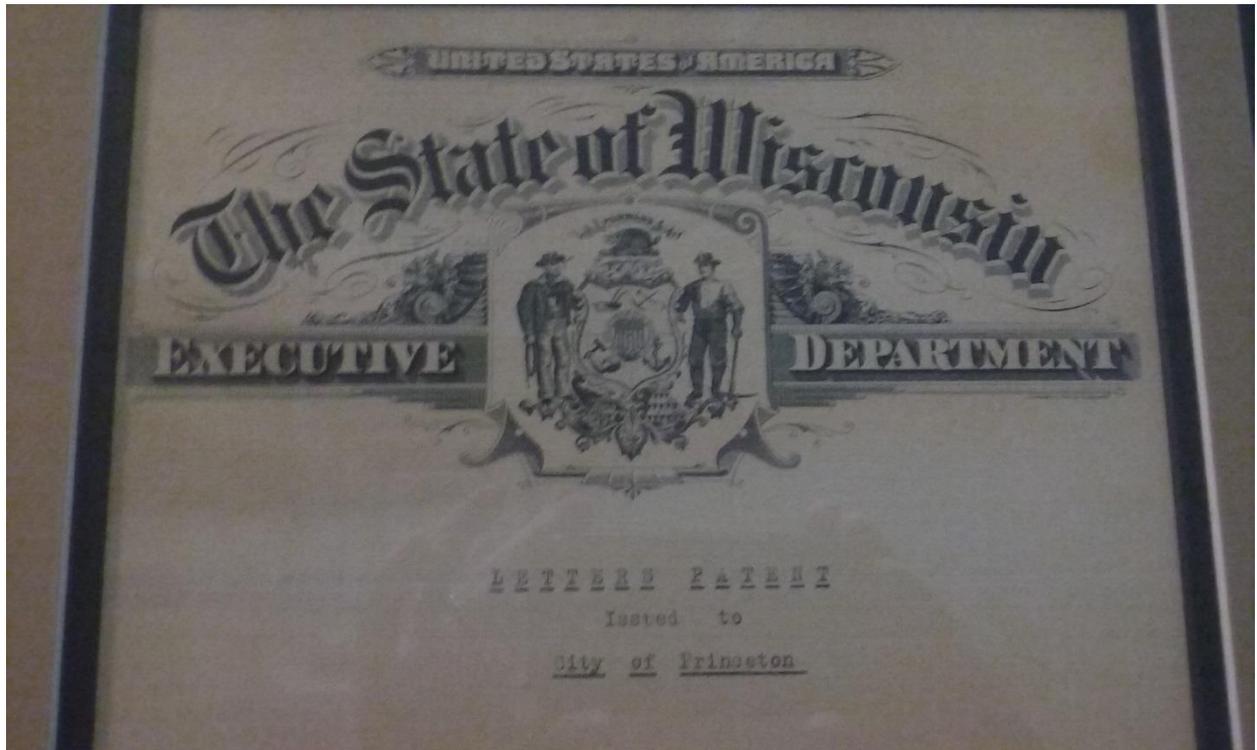
The first group of City officials included Aldermen R H Miller, Ed Reetz, F C Krueger, H O Giese, Rudolph Manthey, and Joe Shurpit. Rimpler continued as City Clerk, and William Grahn was the assessor, Gottlieb Dahlman was Treasurer, Carl A. Worm was constable and Philip Lehner Sr. was City Attorney. Several of these early politicians are buried in the City Cemetery including Miller, Krueger, Giese, Manthey, Rimpler and Worm. Information you may have on these individuals would be a welcome addition to our records.

In 1928 a new Mayor was elected, William A. Gorr who was in office until 1934. Following him Attorney Philip Lehner served from 1934 – 1938, Attorney L. I. Krieser from 1938 – 1946, Ernest L. Hiestand from 1946 - 1948, George Hamann from 1948 – 1956, Attorney Philip Lehner Jr. from 1956 - 1967, Harry Miller from 1968 - 1974, Verne Ruhl from 1974 – 1978, Dennis Pulvermacher 1978 – 1982, Normal Farrell 1982 – 1986, Davey Henschel 1986 – 1988, James Hallett 1988 – 1992, Lois Warnke 1992 – 1994, Debra Greenwald 1994 – 1996, Rose Wick 1996 – 2000, Tom Kuenn 2000 – 2004, Stacey Seidl 2004 – 2006, Matthew Schneider 2006 – 2010, Robert Mosolf from 2010 – 2014, and Charlie Wielgosh 2014 – present.

With the hope that these articles will generate some historical information for our Cemetery records, both Mayor Philip Lehner and Ernest Hiestand are buried in the Princeton City Cemetery.

To share information on those buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery contact City Hall at 920-295-6612 or email mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com or cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com. Also remember our Cemetery Historic Walk taking place on August 26, 2017 at 1:30 and 4:00 p.m. on Hwy 73/Cty Trk J.

Information for this article came from the Quas Qui Centennial Anniversary Book along with other sources. From time to time we find slightly conflicting information on a date or name however always strive for accuracy.



The above picture is taken from the Original Incorporation Document as provided by the Governor of the State of Wisconsin in 1920.