

## **August Furstenberg**

*Nominated by Kathleen McCaffery, August's great-granddaughter*

August Furstenberg was born August 4, 1860 in Menasha Wisconsin to Johann Carl Furstenberg and Christine Timm Furstenberg, German immigrants who arrived in the United States in 1856.

August married Wilhelmina Wiedenhoeft on March 23, 1880 in Brillion Wisconsin. They were parents to five children. They farmed in the Brillion area until 1886 when they moved to Marshfield to take ownership of the Farmers' Home, a hotel and livery stable. The site was on the east side of the 300 block of South Central Avenue.

On June 27, 1887, fire consumed much of Marshfield, including the Farmers' Home which was a total loss. The business was one of the last to be consumed so there was time to remove many of the family's possessions. Farmers came in from the country with wagons to assist with removal. The family never saw their things again.

August and Minnie wasted no time in rebuilding their business. The morning after the fire three temporary buildings, a kitchen, dining room, and sample room were erected. They were back in business! They rebuilt a larger brick two story building on the site and continued to improve the building through the years. August retired from the business in 1902.

August was an active citizen of Marshfield and Wood County. He was also an agent for a monument business, ran for Wood County treasurer, and was a deputy game warden for Wood County. He built a brick house on South Vine Avenue which still stands today.

His willingness to start over after the fire without hesitation after losing everything makes him one of the early progressive leaders and businessmen of Marshfield. He believed in the city and its future.

He passed away on May 7, 1905. His obituary characterized him as gruff and outspoken yet kind and generous. He believed in justice in all things.

