



House photographs provided by Keith Ruetten.

The DeLap / Bailey House – 219 North Park Street.

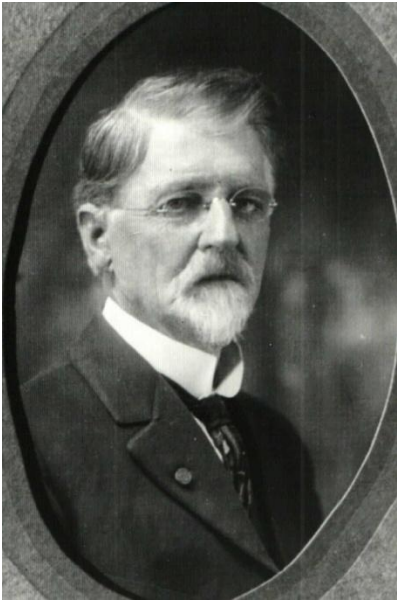
The DeLap/Bailey house has lost much of its original architectural character over the years. It was one of the grand, ornate homes that lined north Park Street; known then as the “silk-stocking” district. The house exhibits the over-all shape and characteristics of the Queen Anne style which was very popular during 1880 to 1910 which coincided with the first boom period in Richland Center. American Queen Anne houses usually have a prominent forward facing gable although cross gabled versions are frequently seen; often coupled with round, square or polygonal turret(s). Roof pitch may be quite steep with many irregular planes. Windows are relatively long and narrow and ornate stained glass windows are not uncommon. Parapets and brickwork are coupled with spindle work, finials, and corner brackets on porches. Covered porches often wrap around a side and can be highly decorative. Most of the decorative features on this house have been removed, most noticeably the ornate front porch and roof detail. The house is encased in mid-century siding completely covering the brick structure.

The importance of this home in the history of Richland Center has to do with the prominent families associated with it. Dr. Robert DeLap was one of the pioneer physicians in Richland Center who practised medicine for over fifty years. In 1862 he enlisted in the 33rd Wis. Vol. Infantry and was discharged in 1865. The three DeLap children married members of prominent Richland Center families. Robert married Miss Beulah James, daughter of State Senator D.G. James, Carrie married Harry Bailey, editor of the Richland Rustic newspaper, and Myrtle married Levi H. Bancroft, a well-known republican politician, lawyer and county judge. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bailey remained in the home and raised three children there, Downing, Catherine and Tom.



Son, Robert, Dr. R.H. DeLap, daughter, Myrtle, 1st wife, Kate (Tinker) DeLap, (daughter, Carrie not shown).

Margaret Helen Scott in her book “Richland Center Wisconsin, A History” describes newspapers in Richland Center during this time, “In the first decade of the new century, Richland Center had three weekly newspapers: *The Republican Observer*, the *Richland Democrat*, and the *Richland Rustic*. With the death in



1903 of W.M. Fogo, Stephen (Steve) Fogo took over the *Republican Observer*. Wilbur Barry owned the *Richland Democrat*. In 1900 L.D. Bailey who had gone to Montana to be in charge of a large mercantile business after clerking at a clothing store in Richland Center from 1886 to 1889, returned and bought out the interest of Mr. Moody in the *Richland Rustic*. For six years he and his son, Harry Bailey, edited the paper. In 1906, Harry sold his share of the business to his father but, after editing a paper in Viroqua for a time, returned once more to the Richland Center newspaper

Dr. R.H. DeLap.

Mrs. Myrtle (DeLap) Bancroft.

work." Harry Bailey continued to edit the *Richland Rustic* with his father until April of 1911 when he became sole editor. He continued as editor until 1924 when the *Richland Rustic* and the other two weekly newspapers consummated a deal in which the *Rustic* sold its subscription list to the *Republican Observer* and the *Richland Democrat* and ceased publication.



(Keep in mind the homes listed are private residences which are not open to the public. Please respect the occupants' privacy when viewing their homes from the sidewalk).



The Richland Rustic office was located on South Main Street in Richland Center. It occupied the first floor of the building while the A.S. Rockwell Photography Studio was on the second floor. The building is no longer extant.