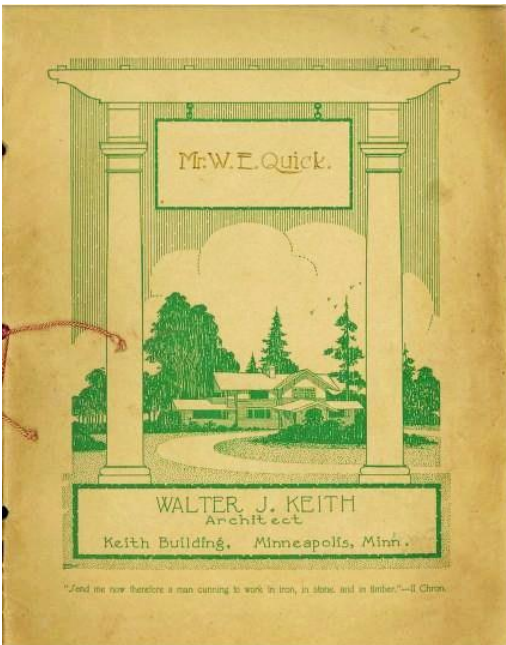




Mrs. Edna McCorkle called her home “The House of Seven Gables.”

## The McCorkle House (a.k.a. The Peckham House) – 415 North Central Avenue.

This house was built in 1906 by Judge William S. and Edna McCorkle. It was patterned after a diagram in the book “American Half-Timber Houses” by architect Walter Keith. The house exhibits characteristics of the Tudor Revival Style in the exterior wall treatment which combines stucco and applied half-timbering with brick. The term “Tudor” is applied somewhat loosely to houses which show groupings of tall rectangular windows coupled with small panes, complex roof lines with many gables, elaborate masonry work and the use of half-timbering. Edna McCorkle often called it “The House of Seven Gables.”



William Stanley McCorkle was born on a farm near Twin Bluffs in Richland County on Jan. 1, 1866 to Joseph and Letitia McCorkle. His mother was a sister of A.H. Krouskop, Richland Center’s first millionaire. He graduated from Sextonville high school and attended the University of Wisconsin. Upon receiving his law degree in 1888, he set up his office in Richland Center in the J.L. McKee Building. He was elected county judge in 1901 and served in that role until 1920 when he resigned to handle the business affairs of his uncle, A.H. Krouskop. With the death of A.H. Krouskop in 1929, Judge McCorkle assumed with his partner, Carl Barnes, the management of the Krouskop store, lumber, coal and feed businesses, and the supervision of many farms and investments.

One of Judge McCorkle’s big interests was the development of Krouskop Park and its swimming pool as sort of a manmade lake without using concrete. It was the first of its kind to be successful in Wisconsin.

He and Edna Smith were married in 1901 and had one son; William S. McCorkle, Jr. Mrs. Edna Smith McCorkle also played an important role in Richland Center. She had come to Richland Center from Amherst and was known as an excellent teacher. She was an important member of the Woman’s Club and the Federation of Women’s Clubs, being president the last time they met at the Carnegie Library. Mrs. McCorkle was well-known for her dramatic performances at the City Auditorium, which included musicals in addition to dramatic plays.

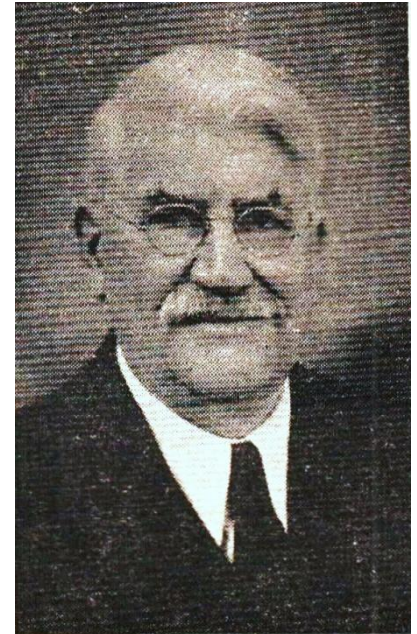
Mrs. McCorkle lived in the home several years after her husband’s death in 1945. After her death in 1959 the house was sold several times. In 1960, it was purchased by the Odin Solberg who then sold it to Cameron Peckham in 1964.



**Joseph and Letitia (Krouskop) McCorkle and A.H. Krouskop. Richland County History Rooms photos.**



**Left to right: Pearl Lincoln, William S. McCorkle, Levi H. Bancroft.**



**W. S. McCORKLE, SR.**

These three men served as Richland County Judge and were highly active and influential in the affairs of the city and county.

Each had long successful careers in the legal field and were married to highly motivated, talented and socially active women. Their political affiliations were completely different from each other; Judge McCorkle was a Democrat, Judge Lincoln, a Progressive, and Judge Bancroft a Republican.

Pearl L. Lincoln, left, served as Richland County Judge from 1921 to 1938. He was born near Ithaca in Richland County in 1870. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1896 and opened his law office in Richland Center

that year. He served as District Attorney for three terms and as Mayor of Richland Center. During his tenure as Mayor, he played an important role in the building of the City Auditorium. Mrs. Grace Lincoln was deeply involved in the Woman's Club and worked diligently as a suffragist. During her lifetime, the Federated Women's Clubs worked to establish the Carnegie Library, the City Auditorium and the Richland Hospital. Judge Lincoln was a Progressive in politics and was deeply involved in social work. Judge Lincoln was defeated by Levi Bancroft, right, in the spring election of 1937; after leaving the bench he practiced law in Richland Center until his death on August 23, 1956.

Levi H. Bancroft was born in Dec. of 1861 in the Bear Valley area. He graduated from Lone Rock high school and attended the University of Wisconsin; graduating with a law degree in 1884. Levi Bancroft had a long legal and political career and was the most widely known lawyer from Richland County in the first half of the twentieth century. He gained fame as the defense attorney in the infamous Rose Zoldoske murder trial. Although Miss Zoldoske was found guilty of poisoning Ella Maly and spent six years in prison, Attorney Bancroft was able to persuade Governor William Upham to grant her a pardon, which he did on his last day in office which created an absolute furor. Bancroft also represented Frank Lloyd Wright in a very high profile divorce case involving Wright's second wife Miriam Noel.

Levi Bancroft was a Republican and fought a number of political battles with Pearl Lincoln and Ada James who were prominent Richland County Progressives. He succeeded Pearl Lincoln as County Judge in 1938.

*(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).*