

Andrew P. Foley Biography

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ANDREW P. FOLEY, one of the sterling citizens and progressive business men of Watertown, Codington county, comes of stanch Irish lineage and is a native of the beautiful capital city of Wisconsin, where he was born on the 13th of January, 1859, being a son of Matthew and Mary (Gahen) Foley, both of whom were born and reared in Dublin, Ireland. They came to America about 1849, and the father of Andrew P. Foley located in Dane county, Wisconsin, where he became a farmer, while his sterling characteristics made him one of the popular and honored citizens of that section. Both he and his wife died in Wisconsin, and they are survived by their four sons and three daughters.

Andrew P. Foley was reared to manhood in his native state, and received his educational discipline in the parochial and public schools. At the age of sixteen years he entered upon an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, becoming a skilled workmen. He continued to follow the work of his trade in Wisconsin and Minnesota until 1880, when he came to South Dakota and took up his residence in Watertown, which then had a population of about one thousand persons. Soon after his arrival he established a horseshoeing shop, which he conducted successfully for several years. For the past three years he has also done an excellent business in the handling of agricultural implements and machinery, carriages, buggies, wagons, etc. He is endowed with the alert mentality and business acumen so characteristic of the race, and has so effectively ordered his affairs as to have attained a position of independence, being one of the well-to-do citizens of the county. He is the owner of about two thousand acres of excellent farming land in Codington and Hamlin counties, and derives good returns from his agricultural and stock-raising interests, while he also has a considerable amount of property in Watertown, including his place of business and also his fine residence, at the corner of Warner and Cottonwood streets.

In politics Mr. Foley is a stanch Democrat and takes an active part in forwarding the cause of the party of his choice. In 1890 he was elected sheriff of Codington county, in which capacity he served four years, giving a most able administration and gaining unqualified popular endorsement. In 1898 he was elected to represent his county in the lower house of the state legislature, serving during the sixth general assembly and doing all in his power to secure wise and effective legislation. He and his wife are communicants of the Catholic church, being prominent members of Immaculate Conception parish, and fraternally he is affiliated with the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

On the 1st of November, 1888, was solemnized the marriage of Mr. Foley to Miss Dora Rourk, who was born in Eden, Wisconsin,

being a daughter of John and Mary Rourk. Of this union have been born seven children, namely: Francis died on the 18th of May, 1902, at the age of nine years; Thomas died January 19, 1904, aged nine years, and those surviving are Andrew, John, Marie, Catherine and Willard. Mrs. Foley also passed away on the 17th of August, 1903, after a brief illness.