

Own a piece of Richland Center history!

Tract of land located at 590 E Seminary Street was sold by Henry & Mary Toms on August 13, 1913. Henry Toms, son of Civil War Captain Henry Toms, Sr., served as a city council alderman and was a well-known jeweler in the early 1900s. He partnered with J.M. Barnes in 1895 to form Barnes & Toms, located at 137 East Court Street, which eventually became Burnham Jewelry Store. In addition to his civic and retail work, Toms was the town's optometrist. Much respected, during his funeral, businesses throughout town were closed.

New owners of the property at that time were B.C. (Benjamin Chester) and Myra Davis, who it is presumed built the current home. Ben Davis was the longtime owner of Richland Center's hardware store and, like the previous property owner, served city council as an alderman. Additionally, he was the secretary for the Chamber of Commerce and the local Scenic Association, committed to the early development of the Richland Center. Perhaps his most intriguing role was as owner of a women's softball team which he owned and coached in the 1930s.

"The team played many surrounding communities during the season, including Viola, Blue River, Avoca, Boscobel, Lone Rock, Bear Valley and Prairie du Chien, and went to the State tournament to play for State Championship against a Janesville team. The local team lost to Janesville, 4 to 3, and had to settle for second place. C.L. Moon, William Doudna formerly of Richland Center broadcast the play by play account over Radio Station WIBA at Breese Stevens Field in Madison." Source: <https://content.mpl.org/digital/collection/rchr/id/14161/rec/3>

202

WARRANTY DEED, VOL. 62

NUMBER 49 059

Henry Toms and Mary A. Toms, his wife
 grantors of Richland
 County, Wisconsin, hereby CONVEY AND WARRANT to
 B. C. Davis and Myra Davis - his wife
 grantee of Richland
 County, Wisconsin, for the sum of
 One Dollar and lawful Considerations
 the following described REAL ESTATE, in Richland County, State of Wisconsin, to-wit:

Thirty-Nine feet off West side of Lot ten and six feet off East side
 of Lot Thirteen in Block Eight in some addition to City of Richland
 Center, Wisconsin for this conveyance, so that no barn shall
 ever be built or maintained on the above premises.

Witness, the hand and seal of said grantors, this 13th day of August 1913

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
 IN PRESENCE OF
 P. L. Lincoln
 Arthur C. Toms

Henry Toms
 Mary A. Toms

State of Wisconsin,
 Richland COUNTY, ss. Personally came before me this 13th day of August
 A. D. 1913, the above named Henry Toms
 and Mary A. Toms his wife, to me known to be the person who executed the
 foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the same.

Received for Record this 15th day of Aug. A. D. 1913 at 10 o'clock A.M.
 Charles Larson
 Register.

P. L. Lincoln Circuit Court Com.
 Notary Public, Richland County, Wis.
 My Commission expires 191

*See Official Record Vol. 49, p. 147, Record of 1913
 See Official Record Vol. 49, p. 147, Record of 1913
 See Official Record Vol. 49, p. 147, Record of 1913
 See Official Record Vol. 49, p. 147, Record of 1913*

Ben C. Davis Dies Following Long Illness

Ben C. Davis, well known resident of Richland Center, died at the Richland hospital on October 14th, following a long illness. Mr. Davis was born in the town of Ithaca 61 years ago.

Mr. Davis has been a resident of this city for many years, engaging in the hardware business for a long period. He conducted the Richland Rating Bureau for some years, served at one time as alderman from the 3rd ward, was secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce and of the Scenic Association.

Mr. Davis was well known throughout the county, was a follower of sports and took a keen interest in local affairs.

Surviving him are his wife, two sons, Dr. L. C. Davis of Indianapolis, and Charles, Richland Center; a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Madden of Washington; seven grandchildren.

Funeral services are to be held on Friday morning at 10 o'clock from the Pratt Funeral Home, Rev. D. O. Dietzman officiating and burial will be made in the city cemetery.

Richland Center, WI: Republican Observer, 16 Oct 1947.

Richland Center, WI: Republican (can Observer, 1 Feb 1945.

Henry P. Toms Dies Following Stroke

Henry P. Toms, life long resident of Richland Center, and well known jeweler, died at the Richland hospital Monday morning January 29th following a stroke suffered on Sunday morning. Mr. Toms, while not in the best of health for some time, was at his jewelry store Saturday. He arose as usual Sunday morning and soon afterwards suffered a severe stroke, never regaining consciousness.

Mr. Toms was one of the prominent business men of the city. He was interested not only in the business life of the town but in the civic life also. He had served on the city council as alderman from the third ward for several years and always took a keen interest in city affairs. He had been engaged in business here for a half century, almost to the day. Mr. Toms was a member of the Masonic lodge. In his passing the city loses a valuable citizen and his death is mourned by a wide circle of friends.

Henry P. Toms was a native born and life long resident of Richland

Center. He was a son of Mr. Henry Toms, early in the city. He was born in 1871. He attended the city schools and was a graduate with the class of 1890. On October 28, 1903, he was united in marriage to Miss Mirah Hart.

Mr. Toms began work as an apprentice in the jewelry business and after spending three years learning the trade he entered into partnership with J. M. Barnes in January 1895, under the firm name of Barnes & Toms. This partnership continued until 1902 when he purchased the interest of Mr. Barnes. Besides engaging in the jewelry business he was also an optometrist.

Mr. Toms is survived by his widow, two daughters, Ada who teaches in the schools at Waukesha, Lieut. Helen in service overseas; two brothers, Edwin of Masonville, Iowa, and Arthur of Port Washington, and a sister Miss Emma Toms of St. Paul, Minn.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon from the Lunenschloss-Doudna Funeral Home, Rev. Charles Hubanks, officiating. Masonic services were conducted and burial took place in the city cemetery.

Business places in the city were closed during the hour of the funeral.