



The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

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GRGS PRESENTATION

**Free Online Research
Sites**

**ONE PIONEER
FAMILY OF THE
GOGEBIC RANGE**

**FIRST FAMILIES OF
THE GOGEBIC
RANGE**

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter is a publication of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society, Inc. The Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July and September. We are located in Ironwood, Michigan, USA. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 23, Ironwood, MI 49938.

Our Officers are

**Gary Harrington, President
Diane Egan, Vice President
(Open position), Secretary
Eddie Sandene, Treasurer
Carol Schleker, Membership
Dwight Filippini, Cemeteries
Tim Egan, Librarian**

**Your Newsletter editor: Connie Noyes
Our website is www.gogebicroots.com
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Membership dues are based on a calendar year starting with the date of enrollment. The expiration date of your membership is shown on your membership card. If renewal of the dues is not received by the expiration date a reminder is sent. The reason for this is twofold. First and foremost we value your membership and hope you continue to support us. Secondly, our Bylaws state that a member in arrears 30 days after the anniversary date shall be removed from the rolls. Please keep in mind that one reminder only is required in this same section of the Bylaws and is sent in hopes that your membership continues without a lapse. If any member has a question regarding this please feel free to contact us.

Thanks for your continued support.

We are fortunate to have a place to call our own and thank the Bessemer Area Historical Society for allowing us the room. A computer and microfiche machine have been set up in a room in the Bessemer Historical Society's building.

Interested individuals can contact any of the GRGS board members to use the materials on hand. A volunteer schedule to assist with research materials on site is currently being set up.

To celebrate the anniversary of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society's roots- the public is invited to a workshop they will present on **DIGGING UP YOUR ROOTS**. The workshop will be held at the **Bessemer Historical Museum starting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2007**. Presenters will be members of the GRGS. The workshop will cover:

- Researching ancestors from the New England area.
- Research facilities available in parts of Ireland.
- Specific sites on the internet; paid and free.
- Use of the social security death index.
- Purpose of probate records and how to access.
- Using obituaries to enhance a search.
- Where and how to use land records, telephone directories.

Several of the members are actively involved in writing and publishing articles; even books addressing various local historical interests. Most recently, our society contributed to the Ironwood Carnegie Library to maintain an efficient microfilm reader for use by researchers. Currently, we are also involved in the acquisition of audio interviews with members of the local Italians. These interviews were conducted by professors at Northern Michigan University. We plan on holding an open house to share these interviews with the public in the future.

This year has brought several changes to our local area. One is that the Wakefield News and Bessemer Pick N Ax have merged under the ownership of local man; Andrew Hill. Hill formerly worked for the Ironwood Daily Globe. Upon his retirement from that newspaper he invested in the merging of the two smaller, weeklies. I have been keeping busy researching and writing historical articles for this venture. Other local writers who are covering local historical interests include; Bruce Cox, Dennis Rolando, and the Wakefield Historical Society.

Another change is the format of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Web Pages. We invite comments and genealogical research requests, obituary look ups from our members. Our board meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10a.m. at the Bessemer Historical Society. Everyone is invited to attend. We may be reached at;

Gogebic Range Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 23

Ironwood, MI 49938

Individuals pursuing their own genealogical research may be interested in knowing about the Rutherford B Hayes obituary index online, this is a free index of vital records and other information from the state of Ohio, spanning the 1830's to modern times. The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center is located in Spiegel Grove, Fremont, Ohio.

<http://index.rbhayes.org/hayes/index/>

PIONEER RESIDENT FAMILY



The left photograph shows Jane C. Bourquin with her grand daughter, Kathleen Kennedy. The right photograph shows John Kennedy and Evelyn (Bourquin) Kennedy.

The Bourquin family; Louis, Jane, and son Harold, moved from Chicago, Illinois to Gogebic County in 1884. Mr. Bourquin had previously been employed at the Montgomery Ward store in Chicago where he witnessed publication of that store's first catalogue. Louis was born about 1838 in Pennsylvania. His father was an emigrant from France while his mother had been born in Delaware. Mrs. Jane Mitchell Bourquin had been born on August 25, 1857, in Union county, Illinois. She was orphaned early in life. Her brother, William Mitchell, lived in southern Illinois and also Missouri. Louis and Jane were married during the early 1880's in the Chicago area.

The family first lived at Gogebic Station and then Lake Gogebic. Due to Louis' service in the Union Army during the civil war, the family had obtained a government homestead at Lake Gogebic. Information provided in the veteran's census of 1890 places Mr. Bourquin in Marenisco.

While living in the Gogebic area, the Bourquin family was a part of the excitement of the railroads rapid progression into the northern wilderness. Mrs. Jane Bourquin would often describe her experiences of walking from Lake Gogebic to Gogebic Station, before the highway existed. They lived there while the events of the Gogebic Stagecoach Robbery unfolded in August of 1889. Gogebic station was on the M. L.S. & W. railroad.

Louis P. Bourquin served as the first postmaster on March 3, 1885, when it was part of Ontonagon County. Gogebic County was organized in 1886.

Some researchers (Michigan Ghost Towns, Roy L. Dodge) state that the name of Gogebic Station was shortened to Gogebic on May 25, 1894. According to the 1888 Gogebic Range Directory the place known as Gogebic, Michigan was a station on the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western Railway, between Watersmeet and Marenisco frequently used by people wishing to reach Lake Gogebic; which was five miles north of the station.

Businesses listed for 1888 included;

Bourquin, L P... general store, merchandise, camp supplies etc,
 Caie, Cha ... saloon.
 Crowe F ... Postmaster and eating house
 Gogebic House ... G R Haviland manager
 Harris & Green ... railroad supply depot
 Lester, O.D. ...agent for Milwaukee Lake Shore & Western Railway.
 Murphy, W. J.... Proprietor of pleasure boats
 Reynolds Capt B. S. ... Manager pleasure boats and bus line.

In 1890 they moved into Marenisco where they operated a general store and post office for many years. Their daughter, Evelyn Bourquin Kennedy, was born September 2, 1894 in Marenisco. The Bourquin's also had a son, Harold Louis, who was born in 1882 and died in 1890. He is buried in Marenisco's cemetery.

By the end of May, 1898, Mrs. L.P. Bourquin was appointed the postmistress for Marenisco, replacing Mrs. Eugene A. Ormes. For many years, the post office in Marenisco was located inside the General Store. Thus, appointing the wife of the store keeper as postmistress made sense. Census records from 1890 through 1920 identify the household of Louis P. and Jane C. Bourquin. They are listed up to 1928, as being Marenisco store keepers.

L.P. had enlisted in the Union Army in 1861 and was discharged in 1864. Louis' war registration records from Illinois provide a physical description; he stood at 5'8" with dark hair and a light complexion. At that time, May 25, 1861, he was a single man who was 24 years old. He was a clerk. According to this information, he began his term of service as a private, was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and later to the rank of second Lieutenant. Mr. Bourquin was very proud that he had been part of "Sherman's March to the Sea." He enjoyed retelling about this as well as the battle of Vicksburgh.

G.A.R. PLEASANTON POST 429 It is interesting to make note that many of the pioneers of Marenisco are buried elsewhere. Mr. Bourquin is one example, due to the fact that he was a member of a local veteran's organization that had a special section in the Ironwood cemetery. Pleasanton Post 429 of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) was established in Ironwood, Michigan in 1896 to promote American patriotism and American citizenship. Many of the original members were Civil War Veterans, including L.P. Bourquin. Curtis Buck, Gogebic counties probate judge, was the mustering officer. This organization was terminated in 1918.

Mr. Bourquin's obituary from the IDG stated; "He was well known in the county. Since the World War he has taken a keen interest in the activities of the American Legion. On many occasions, he has participated in July Fourth observances in the cities of the county."

Mr. Louis P. Bourquin had passed away following an illness of seven years, three strokes of paralysis and was confined to his bed for several months. The funeral was held at his home while the burial was in the Legion lot at Ironwood. The Ironwood legion post provided the usual military courtesy for a war veteran at the grave.

At the time of his death, in July of 1925, only one other Gogebic County Civil War Veteran was still alive; E.M. Monroe of Ironwood.

The list of Gogebic County United States Soldiers of the Civil War Residing in Michigan, June 1, 1894 includes;

Ironwood Township. - C. P. Stewart.
 Marenisco Township. - Richard D. Ellsworth, Louis P. Bourquin, George Kingsley.
 Wakefield Township. - William A. Carpenter.
 Watersmeet Township. - C. A. Boughton, John Beatby, Benjamin B. Hart
 Bessemer City, First Ward. - Charles D. Fournier, Frank Asp, Joseph Pecard, Lewis W. Munthe.
 Bessemer City, Second Ward. - James Hamilton, George L. Loope.
 Bessemer City, Third Ward. - Herman Langhoff.
 Ironwood City, First Ward. - Felix Millett, John Blanchard, Walter Maloney, Allen

Yowell, Philip W. Smith, Michael Suchero, P. S. Walker,
 Ironwood City, Second Ward. - Alexander Green, E. M. Monroe, Patrick Tague, William L. Watson, J. B. Newton.
 Ironwood City, Third Ward. - Octave Tetro, Samuel Reid, Elisha Juneau.
 Ironwood City, Fourth Ward. - J. F. Lyon, Peter Lamielle, Samuel Scott.
 Ironwood City, Fifth Ward. - Lewis Brandt, Almon Goodwin, Curtis Buck.

The 1890 veterans' census (schedule) lists other individuals.
 Our local area paid tribute to these Civil War veterans with, a statue of a Civil War soldier, in Riverview Cemetery, Ironwood. There is also a Bronze tablet in Ironwood's Memorial Building from the early 1920's.

Resources that were used to research the previous article include;

The Gogebic roots website obituary index.

Gogebic county Veterans censuses of 1890 and 1894.

The 1888 Gogebic Range Directory.

Census records.

Cemetery records.

Obituaries and other articles in the Ironwood Daily Globe.

Assistance of a wonderful lady named Ruth Ann Montgomery who wrote a history of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Evansville, Wisconsin.

Michigan Ghost Towns by Roy L. Dodge

A free online Illinois database of information that was used to research L.P. Bourquin's service in the Civil War; <http://www.ilsos.gov/genealogy/>

If your ancestor fought from the state of Missouri, they have a website that included soldiers from the War Of 1812 to WWI; <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers/>

We'd like to hear about your family.

PIONEERS OF THE GOGEBIC RANGE
Email or snail mail us your family story.