

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter



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Newsletter editor: Connie Noyes

Gary Harrington, President

Diane Egan, Vice President

(Open position), Secretary

Eddie Sandene, Treasurer

Carol Schleker, Membership

Dwight Filippini, Cemeteries

Tim Egan, Librarian

Our website is

www.gogebicroots.com

Covered in this issue; Medical history of the Gogebic Range; early doctors and hospitals.

Resources used include:

Pioneering the Upper Midwest: Books from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ca. 1820-1910

Medical history of Michigan: Volume II Medical History of Michigan by Michigan State Medical Society, Colonel Bell Burr – 1930.

"Early Medical History of Gogebic County" by Dr. E. H. Madajesky of Ironwood.

The life of the pioneer physician was hard. He faced hazards of traveling alone in the wilderness to make house calls, the limited choice of treatments, the ratio of patients per doctor. Due to these issues the early doctors were real heroes and pioneers. They had to be self-reliant, just like the pioneer families. The mining companies recognized that it was to their interests to have their men in the best of health. Any periods of disability should be of the shortest duration possible. In order to meet these goals it was necessary to establish properly manned and maintained hospitals.

Dr. Madajesky was the senior member of the Oliver Clinic and the senior physician-surgeon for the Oliver Iron Mining Co. on the

Gogebic Range. Dr. E. H. Madajesky, of the Oliver Iron Mining Company at Ironwood, Michigan, came to Bessemer in 1899 to help with an epidemic of diphtheria. He practiced medicine in Bessemer for more than 15 years before moving to Ironwood in 1914. He was born in Appleton Oct. 1, 1870, and graduated from Ryan high school in 1886. He worked in Appleton for William F. Montgomery, a druggist, remaining until 1889. Next he entered the University of Wisconsin's school of pharmacy. Between semesters he worked for A.C. Whitman, the druggist in Hurley. He worked at the Thomas and McCabe drugstore in Ironwood for five years. After that job he entered and completed medical school in Illinois. Then Dr. Madajesky took a position as assistant to Dr. Loop and Dr. Whiteside at Bessemer. He remained there for 15 years, moving to Ironwood. In Ironwood Dr. Madajesky and Dr. A. J. O'Brien operated the Union hospital, which was closed after the erection of Grand View hospital. Dr. Madajesky penned a series of articles on the early medical history of the Gogebic range. He recounted how Dr. A.H. Thomas was the pioneer physician in this section of the country, first making his headquarters at Watersmeet when the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western railway was constructing a line to the Gogebic Range. He wrote that "the pioneer physician's nerve was taxed to the limit. He had no car to carry him to his patient. At night he walked or hitched up his own horse or rode horseback with lantern in hand. When he arrived at his destination, the chances were that he must remain all night or be aroused again." The veteran physician was a member of the various Masonic orders, the Gogebic County Medical society, and was a director of the Gogebic National Bank. He was an ardent devotee of the game of golf until several years ago when his health would not permit him to play the game anymore. He won the first President's Trophy ever played for at the Gogebic Country Club. After his death in 1932 he was buried in Riverside cemetery.

Dr. A. E. Anderson came to Ironwood from Iron Mountain about 1892, entered practice and operated a drug store. "He was politically inclined and elected mayor and later moved to Minneapolis."

Dr. John R. Moore, a pioneer physician, was born July 12, 1850, at Sullivan, Wisconsin. In 1886-1887 he was surgeon with Dr. J. A. McLeod for the Norris and East Norris mine

at Ironwood. In 1890, he worked at the Aurora mine. Later he formed a partnership with Dr. John C. Yates when the mines consolidated as the Oliver Iron Mining Company. He practiced in Ironwood until his death, Nov. 14, 1909. He devised a splint which was used by the local physicians for thigh fractures.

Dr. J. H. Eddy, another pioneer physician, located at Wakefield. It is said that he covered more territory than any other physician in the county. His trips extended from Watersmeet to Bessemer. He was always willing to minister to the sick, day or night, regardless of the weather. He was president of the Wakefield village and school boards. He died in California and to perpetuate his memory the citizens of Wakefield named (Eddy Park) in his honor.

Dr. J. H. Urquhart was born in Ispeming and came to the Gogebic range with his parents. He was apprenticed to Drs. Thomas and McCabe, who operated a drug store. He practiced in Ironwood and in Wisconsin. He was the first physician on the range to specialize in eye, ear, throat and nose work. He was vice president of the Merchants and Miners Bank and was the man who initiated the building of Ironwood's golf course

Dr. J. A. McLeod came to Ironwood in the spring of 1887 as mine physician for the Metropolitan Iron and Land Company. He urged his mining company to establish the first hospital at Ironwood, in 1888--the Union Hospital, operating until 1926. At first only emergency cases were treated. In 1893, Ironwood was in a typhoid fever epidemic. Both the hospital and the armory were filled. Extra physicians and nurses responded to help. By the end, there was a death toll of

about one hundred in a population of 7,000. Dr. McLeod served as mayor of Ironwood in 1897 and 1898. He moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he died in 1916 and his remains were returned to Ironwood for interment.

Dr. J. K. Niven, located in Ironwood about 1887, coming from New London, Wisconsin. He succeeded Dr. J. A. McLeod (with whom he had been associated as first assistant) as surgeon for the Oliver Iron Mining Company in 1898. His death from pneumonia occurred in 1902.

Dr. John C. Yates, a Rush graduate, settled in Ironwood in 1897 as assistant to Dr. J. K. Nevin and upon his death succeeded him. He practiced in Ironwood until 1906 when he moved to San Diego, California.

Dr. E. H. Kelly came to the Gogebic range in 1887, locating first at Hurley, Wisconsin, and later in Ironwood, where he was mine physician for many years for the Ashland mine at Ironwood and for several explorations in Wisconsin. He became interested in fracture work through an accident that occurred at the Ashland mine in 1890. A miner fell down a shaft a distance of over 200 feet and it was said that every bone in his body was fractured.

Dr. R. A. Paradis graduated from Laval University, Quebec, in 1891, and in 1893 located in Gogebic County, first at Ironwood, then two years later at Bessemer, where he was employed as physician for the Castile Mining Company. He established the Paradis Hospital in 1902, which was closed when he left Bessemer in 1920. It is now used as club rooms for the local post of the American Legion. Dr. Paradis relocated in Canton, Ohio, where he practiced with his son until his death from pneumonia in 1929.

Dr. George L. Loope came to Bessemer about 1886 and was associated with Dr. Charles Shipman, who had charge of all the medical work for the various mine explorations east of Ironwood. In 1887 he and Dr. Whiteside purchased Gogebic Hospital engaging in general operative surgery on the Gogebic range in the late eighties. Dr. Loope practiced in Bessemer from 1887 to 1908.

Dr. J. W. Whiteside was born and reared in Rockford, Illinois. He was a baseball pitcher worthy of mention. He was offered a contract with the old St. Louis Browns of the National League, but he chose the medical profession. He settled on the Gogebic range at Bessemer in 1886. He retired in 1914 in Chicago.

When Dr. M. F. McCabe came to Ironwood soon after graduating in 1885, he was employed part-time as mine physician. Here a partnership with Dr. A. H. Thomas was formed to practice medicine and surgery, which continued for eleven years. In addition, they operated two drug stores, one in Ironwood, the other in Hurley. In the Ironwood office minor operations were

performed. Major surgery was then in its infancy, amputations only being done. They had no sterilizers, instruments were boiled, but no dressings sterilized. A C. E. mixture was used as a general anesthetic. A great deal of extraction of teeth was done, as this was called for under mining contracts. There was so much toothache that even the clerks in the drug stores became proficient in the extraction line and served as dentists.

Dr. A. H. Thomas located at Manistique after graduation in 1883. He went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to meet a classmate. He mentioned the fact that he was looking for another location. This classmate remembered an opening for a surgeon with the construction crew of the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western then extending its line through the wilderness of Northern Wisconsin and Michigan. He advised him to see Dr. Marks, the company's chief surgeon. When he called upon Dr. Marks he was told "that work and living along the construction line will be hell, but you can make some money." Dr. Thomas afterwards stated, "I found out he was right, but I was never sick a day and do not regret the time I spent at the work." He first headquartered at Watersmeet, and ministered to the sick along the line as extension of the road proceeded, living in camps until 1885

when the road was completed. He then located in Hurley, Wisconsin. In 1886 his daughter, Edith, the first white child on the range, was born. At the age of 70 years he still maintained an office in Hurley, Wisconsin, specializing in eye, ear, throat and nose.

Dr. Edward Andre Florentine, of Ewen, Michigan, a son of one of Saginaw's pioneer physicians, Dr. Frank B. Florentine. Dr. E. Florentine made professional calls in Ontonagon, Houghton, Baraga, Iron and Gogebic Counties, for more than twenty-eight years. Before the days of good roads, to accomplish this meant walking, skiing, snowshoeing, travel by horseback, hand cars, bicycles, railroad velocipedes, freight trains, passenger trains, row boats, motor boats and automobiles. He served in France during the World War and left the service with the rank of major.

TWIN CITY HOSPITAL AT IRONWOOD

From 1888 to 1898, Mr. A. H. Runstrom, proprietor of the above mentioned hospital, assisted Dr. John A. McLeod, chief surgeon for the Oliver Mining Company, at the Union Hospital. After Dr. McLeod left for Milwaukee in 1898, Mr. Runstrom was approached by doctors, requesting that he build a hospital for their patients. Mr. Runstrom accommodated six patients in his own home. This was used as a hospital from the spring of 1898 until the fall of 1899; when he purchased the building where the present hospital is located from Mr. S. S. Curry. Mr. Runstrom paid to have the building remodeled. This included having another story added to make a three-story building, with beds to accommodate twenty-eight patients. He then contracted with the following mining companies: Newport, Aurora, Ashland, Cary, Montreal and Iron Belt.

In 1907 an addition was added and an operating room was provided. In 1923 another addition was added and a modern operating room was added, the old operating room on the first floor being used as a first aid and minor operating room, while the new operating room on the second floor was used for all clean cases.

The hospital in 1929 accommodated twenty-five patients with a large ward on the first floor for all compensation, mining and accident cases. Private rooms were on the second floor. It was equipped with a modern portable x-ray machine, an oil burner and an electric refrigerator. The hospital was located in the heart of the city in a quiet section. It was said to be readily accessible, whether by train, auto or street car.

Other Upper Peninsula early hospitals:

* Republic Mine Hospital Republic (1880), 8 beds; out-patient department.

* Lake Superior General Hospital, Lake Linden (1890), 14 beds.

* Crystal Falls General Hospital, Crystal Falls (1900), 15 beds.

* Mohawk Mine Hospital, Mohawk (1900), 20 beds; out-patient department.

* Iron River Hospital, Iron River (1901), 12 beds.

* Copper Range Hospital, Trimountain (1906), 25 beds; out-patient department.

* Wakefield General Hospital, Wakefield (1910), 16 beds.

* Munising Hospital, Munising (1910), 15 beds.

* Bay View Hospital, Nahma (1914), 10 beds.

* Verona Welfare Hospital, Caspian (1915), 8 beds; out-patient department.

* Penn Hospital, Norway (1917), Penn Iron Mining Co., 20 beds.

* Charcoal Iron Company Hospital, Marenisco (1918), 10 beds; out-patient department.

* Harbor Beach Hospital (1920), 23 beds.

* Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company Hospital, Gwinn, 16 beds.

* Iron Mountain Industrial Hospital (1925), 6 beds; out-patient department.

state aid, in the form of \$1.00 per day for each indigent patient. Marquette County; Houghton County Sanatorium; Delta-Menominee-Dickinson Sanatorium, a tri-country institution located at Powers. Some date back to the 1910's; with the 1920's improved plant and equipment to the standards of Grade A. The rest have been founded in the 1920's as Class A standard. All of them are receiving children. Gogebic County operates Grand View Sanatorium, begun about 1921, and can care for ninety patients. This is not a charity institution; an out-patient nurse is supported in part by sale of Christmas seals.

The following upper peninsula tuberculosis sanatorias are supported by the county with

GOGEBIC RANGE PIONEER FAMILIES

Was your family living on the Gogebic Range before December 31, 1900? If so, we want you to join our exclusive group of Gogebic range pioneer families.

To join GR Pioneer Families: You must be a member of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society when your application is submitted. (Membership fee schedule is listed at the bottom of this page.) You must provide documented proof of each generation back to the ancestor that was in the county by December 31, 1900. A fee of \$10 is due with the application. Each submitted and approved Gogebic Range Pioneer Family submission will receive a certificate. Certificates will be presented to members at the annual board meeting held at the Elk and Hound.

GRGS Memberships
Individual / Life \$240
Family / Life \$360
Individual / Yearly \$12
Family / Yearly \$18