

## The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

### January 2010

New Year's greetings from the North Woods and the GRGS! It has been awhile since we have produced a newsletter, but we expect to revive the meaning of "quarterly" in our effort to inform you via newsletters of what is going on in the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society. One of the things that jumps out in a cursory review of the membership listing is that most of our members live outside the Gogebic Range. We are thankful for each one of you. We couldn't exist without you and enjoy the opportunity to get together when you come for a visit. In fact, assisting genealogists at all levels of proficiency from anywhere in the world is what keeps us going. It's especially satisfying to connect folks from Finland, Italy, or elsewhere with their Gogebic roots.

We also would like to do better in recruiting those in the local area who could assist with our various projects, newsletters and programs. We welcome advice and assistance from all our members. If you have ideas for programs or input for newsletters, feel free to contact me or any board member –Always good to hear from you. You will certainly get the opportunity to participate.

*MEETINGS*--A year or so ago we changed our by-laws to establish quarterly versus monthly board meetings, with more frequent meetings at the call of the president. In the winter it's especially difficult to convene the board whose members is scattered throughout the area. Two hundred inches of snow per year plays into constructing our schedule. Anyone interested in genealogy is invited to the board meetings. We will always set aside time to help you with your family research. We'll continue to publish minutes of the board meetings to keep you informed. Meetings are normally held at the Bessemer Area Heritage Center on Sophie St. in Bessemer at 10 A. M. on the first Wednesday of January, April, July, and October.

*PROGRAMS*--Our hope is to increase the number of programs each year. They will normally be in months in which the board doesn't meet. Our annual meeting, with lunch and program, is held in September, the date dependent on availability of program presenters and site location. We were privileged to have Nelda Ikenberry as our speaker at the September 2009 lunch and meeting. She gave us great insight into the colorful pioneers who settled Black River Harbor on Lake Superior and introduced attendees to her book, *Black River Harbor*. The GRGS was pleased to help Nelda flesh out information for her book on several Black River settlers by providing obits. Nelda's book is available for \$22 at Book World in Ironwood, the Wakefield News Office, or by calling Betsy Slabaugh, 906-250-2081. You may also contact Nelda directly at [gikenber@yahoo.com](mailto:gikenber@yahoo.com) or mail her at 1307 E. Sharp, Mc Pherson, KS 67460. She will be happy to get a book to you. You'll find 395 pages of stories detailing the earliest net-fishing families in their humble squatter's shacks at the Harbor moving through the era of commercial fishing and on to more recent years. Nelda's website is [www.blackriverharborhistory.com](http://www.blackriverharborhistory.com).

Speaking of books, the area's foremost historical author, Bruce Cox, continues to publish well-researched books about Gogebic Range mining and other topics. He recently published a book about the history of Wakefield and his fifth volume of the miners who worked for the Oliver Mining Company. You can contact Bruce at email [goracoin@hotmail.com](mailto:goracoin@hotmail.com), his website at [www.gogebicbooks.com](http://www.gogebicbooks.com) or google agogeebic Press (There really are two "e's" in agogeebic). His books are a real treasure for genealogists or anyone interested in Gogebic Range history. The books also can be purchased at several area locations.

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## Area hit hard by the flu pandemic of 1918

*Ironwood news Record November 30, 2010*—Heading reads, “Influenza situation is further improved” but the story that follows details how hard Ironwood alone was hit.

- “Only” 86 new cases of flu in week ending November 28 against 152 in previous week.
- Total active cases 194 versus 218 the week before
- 39 deaths since the disease first appeared
- Over 3000 inoculations

### Deaths in last seven days

John Landers—Died November 22 at his home, 103 Shamrock St. Age 53. Miner with Oliver Mining Co.

Mrs. Amanda Niemi—Erwin Township. Died at the Ironwood emergency hospital Nov. 22, Age 32. Husband Richard killed in accident at Newport Mine over two years before.

Eric Raijala, resident of Ironwood for 14 years, died Nov. 23 at 225 East Ayer St. Age 34.

Lila (Sp?) Mary, daughter of John Pollari, 128 Aurora Location, died Nov. 24. Age 11.

Robert Hocking, No.8 N. Pabst Location, died Nov. 24. Worked for Oliver Mining Co. Age 50.

Elsie Elizabeth, one year old daughter of Matt Sahinoja, No. 18 N. Pabst Location. Died Nov. 25.

Mrs. Mary Caine, 318 Silver St. Died Nov. 25. Age 66.

Mrs. Jenora De Antonio, May St., died Nov. 25 at the emergency hospital. Born Italy. Age not given.

John Vida died Nov. 25 at his residence, 318 Aurora Location. Miner Newport Mine. Age 48.

Rocco Capoferri died Nov. 26 at the family residence E. Ayer St. Miner Newport Mine. Age 34.

Henning Punsari died Nov. 26 at family residence North Pabst Location. Age 27.

Irma Regina, age almost 5 years old, daughter of Carl Berg, 302 Norfolk St. died Nov. 26.

Herman Hansen died at the emergency hospital Nov. 26. Age 28. From Sweden 7 years ago.

Pauline, 4 year old daughter of Anton Bennette, 100 Bonnie Location, died Nov. 27.

*OUR WEBSITE—Check out the new and refreshed Gogebicroots.com website. Gail Speer has taken over the reigns as manager and is doing a great job. Much is the same, but a lot has changed, especially in the obituary and membership pages. We now have over 70,000 obituaries on file and growing. We have obits going back to 1890 covering Ironwood, Bessemer, and Hurley, and places between. We had a lapse in obits dating from early 2006, but we are rapidly closing the gap to become current again. It is a process to go through every newspaper to find the obits and enter the data, but please check back regularly as we are adding them as fast as time allows.*

*We have over 3,000 members (paid and free) on file, which tells us we are an active, busy website. A lot of people want to find and learn about their roots.*

*We have not been doing regular newsletters for awhile, but we have a fresh commitment to do so. This is our first newsletter in this attempt. Please check the website for newsletters in the future.*

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**—We're not really trying to increase our tenure, but the board elected at the annual meeting in September remains the same.

President—Gary Harrington

Vice President—Diane Egan

Secretary—Diane Egan (acting)

Treasurer—Dwight Filippini (acting)

Karen Bielawski—research and obits

Tim Egan—Librarian

As you can see, there are board members doubling up-- We are always looking for folks to step forward and volunteer to take over an area you are comfortable with. We certainly don't have a lock on ideas. In fact new approaches to how we do business and serve our customers are always welcome.

*IN MEMORY—Our cohort and friend, Joe Carlson, is no longer with us, losing his life in a motorcycle/automobile accident in early 2009. Joe was one of the founders of the GRGS and a supporter even after he and Andree left the area for Kentucky. As you may remember, Joe was library director for the Ironwood Carnegie Library. In that capacity he was the focal point for genealogists coming to the area. He was always ready to help. Joe also became our guru for anything involving the website and he took over as editor of the newsletter. We miss Joe for all he meant to the GRGS but most of all as a friend.*



#### **Pioneer's Great- Granddaughter**

Standing by the tombstone of Solomon Curry, Ironwood Pioneer, are on right Charlotte Zahn, Curry's great- granddaughter, center local historian Larry Peterson, and left Gary Harrington , pres. Gogebic Range Gen. Soc. and Ironwood Area Hist. Soc. Charlotte's summer visit to the area was a memorable one.

## Enlistment Record Company I, Third Infantry of the Michigan National Guard--Ironwood

Hundreds of Ironwood's young men met the call to duty in the Spanish-American War. We thank Mrs. Dorothy Boxhorn for donating the original enlistment record for the soldiers serving the Ironwood Guard from 1897 to 1906. All but three of the below listed soldiers are enumerated on a bronze tablet mounted in the Ironwood Memorial Building remembering those who fought in that war. Maybe you'll find a long lost ancestor.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Enlistment Date</u>	<u>Discharge Date</u>	<u>Cause of Discharge</u>
Trezise, William	39	May 25, 1898	Dec. 4, 1899	elected 1 <sup>st</sup> Lt.
Brewer, Fred	26	Dec. 9, 1897	Dec. 4, 1899	elected 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt.
Strick, John S.	25	Dec. 9, 1897	Dec. 12, 1899	removed from station
Lee, Chris P.	26	May 15, 1897	Apr. 26, 1900	elected 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt
Richards, Charles	28	Nov. 1, 1897	Mar. 13, 1900	removed from station
Voyce, James	29	Nov. 1, 1897	Nov. 1, 1900	expiration of service
Salter, Thomas	26	Nov. 1, 1897	Nov. 1, 1900	expiration of service
Scott, George A.	27	July 8, 1899	July 8, 1902	expiration of service
Holemo, Olaf	20	April 23, 1898	Oct. 16, 1900	expiration of service
Bennetts, John	22	Mar, 24, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	expiration of service
Brewer, Luther C.	18	Feb. 19, 1897	Dec. 12, 1899	business engagement
Bartlett, Hugh	19	May 15, 1897	May 15, 1900	expiration of service
Bentzen, Julius	22	Apr. 23, 1898	Apr. 23, 1901	expiration of service
Brewer, Roscoe	18	July 15, 1899	July 15, 1901	expiration of service
Capstick, William	32	Mar. 24, 1897	Dec. 12, 1899	removed from station
Chinn, James	27	May 25, 1897	Nov. 15, 1900	expiration of service
Carlson, Emil	22	Mar. 30, 1898	Mar. 30, 1901	expiration of service
Coveyou, Michael F.	21	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	removed from station
Carlson, John	23	July 15, 1899		removed from station
Casanova, Frank	28	July 15, 1899	Oct. 16, 1900	removed from station
Durkee, Clarence E.	24	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	removed from station

Davis, Frank	26	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	removed from station
Exworthy, Robert	18	Feb. 19, 1897	Feb. 18, 1900	time expired
Erickson, John	18	July 15, 1899	July 18, 1902	time expired
Gates, Daniel E.	28	Mar. 24, 1897	Mar, 23, 1900	time expired
Garland, Charles	31	May 15, 1899	Dec. 3, 1900	business engagement
Garland, Joseph	21	May 15, 1897	Dec. 12, 1899	removed from station
Garland, Bert	19	July 15, 1899	Mar. 13, 1900	removed from station
Guyer, Edward	21	Mar. 30, 1898	Mar. 30, 1901	expiration of service
Gallinatti, Joseph	19	Mar. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	removed from service

This is a partial list. The original document is very fragile and requires transcribing data that is difficult to read. It doesn't lend itself to scanning. Additional names will be added in future newsletters.

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**Feel free to submit articles for the newsletter and to send us names you are searching. We'll be glad to publish them.**

Thanks to all our members and those who benefit from our services.

Gary Harrington, Pres. GRGS