

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

April 2010

Spring in the North Woods is a special time of the year, one that reminds us why we have elected to live here. It's also the time that prompts those of you who live elsewhere to visit the Gogebic Range of your youth or perhaps one of the communities where your ancestral family originated. Come on up!

The feedback concerning the January newsletter was encouraging. We'll do our best to push out the newsletters on a regular basis. We always appreciate feedback---Or send us some ideas for an article, or even better, send us an article relating to the Gogebic Range. Stories about pioneer families are especially interesting for our readers. The Gogebic Range Gen. Soc. covers Iron County, Wis. and Gogebic County, Mich.

Sawmills and Lumber Companies—The discovery of iron ore in the mid 1800s led to the opening and growth of the Gogebic Range. That kicked off the need for lumber for railroads, shoring in mines, houses and businesses. We receive many queries concerning family members who worked in the woods or at mills. A quick search through early local newspapers turned up some interesting facts relating to the lumber industry. In 1905 the Scott and Howe Lumber Company purchased the remnants of the lumber stock of the Montreal River Lumber Company at Gile (*Ironwood Times* May 20, 1905). The *Ironwood News Record* of November 11, 1914 had the following story, "After having run day and night since Dec. 15 of last year, the sawmill of the Scott and Howe Lumber Company, one of Ironwood's largest industries was closed down last Saturday for repairs. The repair work will require about six weeks time to complete, when the mill will be started up again with day and nights shifts on what Supt. Dumarez believes will be as busy a season as the company has ever experienced. The planning mill of the company is being operated full time to take care of the back orders. While many other lumber concerns are curtailing for the winter, the Scott and Howe is continuing operations on nearly a normal scale. The plant cut better than twenty million feet during the year, and the management expects to do fully as well in the next twelve months. An important feature is its by-products—ladder rounds, sheave wheel blocks, lath, etc. As indicating the scope of its business, a large shipment of basswood lumber, consigned to Rotterdam, was seized by the British when it was two days out of Quebec, at the opening of the war. Later the shipment was released and the boat carrying it was allowed to proceed to its destination."

As with the mining and rail industries, there were dangers inherent in lumbering. In May of 1905, Guy Allen, a boy about fifteen years of age, whose home was at Hurley was killed in the mill yard of the Scott and Howe Lumber Company. The boy was working at piling slabs and having nothing to do for a time, joined some other boys who were playing on the logs in the rollway. The logs became loosened and rolled upon him, crushing him so badly that he died a few minutes after the accident. (*Ironwood Times*, May 20, 1905) No child labor laws a century ago.

Enlistment Record for Company I, Third Infantry, Michigan National Guard, stationed in Ironwood. Continued from January newsletter. Again we thank Mrs. Dorothy Boxhorn for donating the records to the Ironwood Area Historical Society. Because of the fragility of the records, tedious transcription is necessary. Then to assure correct spelling, the names are checked against those on the bronze tablet at the Ironwood Memorial Building who fought in the Spanish American War. The War, fought in 1898, was short-lived, so those who entered the Guard after 1898 don't appear on the list at the Memorial Building. Believe me, the names as transcribed often aren't even close to the actual.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Enlistment Date</u>	<u>Discharge Date</u>	<u>Cause of Discharge</u>
Grills, Alrich	22	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	Removal from station
Grills, John	24	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	Removal from station
Grills, George	21	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	Removal from station
Haines, Clarence	22	July 15, 1899	Dec. 12, 1899	Removal from station
LaBlond, Phillip	18	Nov. 9, 1896	Nov. 8, 1899	Expiration of services
Leorke, Charles	19	Mar. 30, 1898	Mar. 30, 1901	Expiration of service
Moyle, William	21	June 28, 1897	June 28, 1900	Expiration of service
Mihelchick, John	26	Mar. 7, 1898	Mar. 7, 1901	Expiration of service
McMinn, William	23	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	Removal from station
Mueller, Adolph	18	Jul. 15, 1899	July 15, 1902	Term expired
McNair, William	18	Jul. 15, 1899	July 15, 1902	Term expired
McDougal, John	21	Jul. 15, 1899	Dec. 3, 1900	Non-attended inspec./Dishon.
Nelson, Nels	18	Mar. 7, 1898	Mar. 13, 1900	Removal from station
Nelson, Gust	18	Jul. 15, 1902	Jul. 15, 1902	Term Expired
O'Neill, James	19	Mar. 30, 1898	Oct. 6, 1900	Removal from station
Prince, John A	24	Mar. 30, 1898	Oct. 16, 1900	Business engagement
Pascoe, William	21	Apr. 23, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	Removal from station
Powers, James	18	Jul. 15, 1899	Dec. 3, 1900	Non-attended inspec./dishon.
Piontkowski, F.	22	Jul. 15, 1899	Mar. 13, 1900	Removal from station
Salin, Ole	19	Mar. 7, 1898	Oct. 6, 1900	Removal from station
Stenstrom, C.A.	19	Jul. 15, 1899	Jul. 15, 1902	Term expired

Strenstrom, Gus	21	Jul. 15, 1899	Jul. 15, 1902	Term expired
Trezeise, Frank	18	Jul. 15, 1899	Jul. 15, 1902	Term expired
Wanzer, Edward	24	Mar.30, 1898	Dec. 12, 1899	Removal from station
Brottlund, Albert	19	Nov. 24, 1899	Dec. 3, 1900	Non-attended inspec./dishon.
Cullum, Alexander	29	Nov. 24, 1899	Feb. 12, 1900	Non-attendance of drills
Coombs, Harry	21	Nov. 24, 1899	Jun. 25, 1901	Removal from station
Clark, James	27	Nov. 24, 1899	Nov. 24, 1902	Term expired
DeHuden, Chas	21	Nov. 24, 1899	Mar. 13, 1900	Removal from station
Holemo, John	18	Nov. 24, 1899	Nov. 24, 1902	Term expired
Hagen, Nils	25	Nov. 24, 1899	Nov. 24, 1902	Term expired
James, Jason	22	Nov. 24, 1899	Jun. 25, 1901	Removal from station
Lawler, John	22	Nov. 24, 1899	Feb. 12, 1900	Non-attendance of drills
LaBlond, Phillip	21	Nov. 24, 1899	Nov. 24, 1902	Term expired
Magurke, James	21	Nov. 24, 1899	Nov. 24, 1902	Term expired
Oleson, Albert	21	Nov. 24, 1899	Nov. 24, 1902	Term expired
Ortman, Christ	18	Nov. 24, 1899	Jun. 25, 1901	Removal from station
Shuman, Alfred	22	Nov. 24, 1899	Mar. 13, 1900	Removal from station
Saari, Gust	18	Nov. 24, 1899	Dec. 3, 1900	Removal from station
Whitesides, Wm	28	Nov. 24, 1899	Dec. 26, 1900	To enlist in--?
Williams, Thomas	23	Nov. 24, 1899	Nov. 24, 1902	Term expired
Cox, Harry	26	Feb. 19, 1900	Feb. 19, 1903	Term expired
Chipurace, Geo	19	Feb. 19, 1900	Feb. 19, 1903	Term expired
Dixon, Robert	19	Feb. 19, 1900	Feb. 19, 1903	Term expired
Dreso, Charles	20	Feb. 19, 1900	Dec. 3, 1900	Non-attendance/dishon.
Dailey, James	21	Feb. 19, 1900	June 1901	Removal from station
Gygie, Fred	22	Feb. 19, 1900	unknown	unknown
Hilligan, George	22	Feb. 19, 1900	unknown	unknown
Jackson, John	18	Feb. 19, 1900	unknown	unknown

Feel free to let us know if we've butchered a name! Interesting to note James O'Neill became mayor of Ironwood, played a large role in building the Memorial Bldg., and died before it was dedicated in 1923.

Searching----

--Bill Droster came across a familiar name in the GRGS Jan. 2007 newsletter. He is related to Louis Bourquin's mother, who was Evalina Phillips. Bill wonders if there is anyone in the area related to this family.

--Ed Sandene, President of the Bessemer Area Hist. Soc. forwarded information on an early Bessemer pioneer, Guy Couch, who was born in Cornwall in either 1861 or 1862, came to North America in 1880, and became one of Bessemer's first arrivals in 1884. In Bessemer's golden-jubilee celebration in 1937, Couch recounted that two weeks after his arrival, news came of the election of Pres. Grover Cleveland. Fellow pioneers, who were camping with Couch, threw their caps into the air at the news. The cap tossers were Rick Kinney, Ed Maher, and Jack Matthews. Couch knew Richard Langford, who is credited with discovering ore on Colby Hill. Langford stayed with Couch a few days during the winter of 1884-85.

Tim Crossley from Sydney Australia, is interested in finding out more about his Great Uncle Joseph Guy Couch. Tim requested an obit on Couch from the GRGS. If you have further information, please contact the GRGS or Ed and we'll get the info to Tim. Genealogy really does draw the world together. Thanks to Ed and the Bessemer Area Hist. Soc., for letting us in on this fascinating pioneer.

This and That---

--The GRGS Board of Directors met May 12 at the Bessemer Area Heritage Center. That date wasn't advertised because of the short notice after the cancellation of the April meeting. We'll try to be better at providing updates on changes to meeting times. Meetings are quarterly, but more often when needed. The next meeting will be 10 A.M, June 2 at the Bessemer Area Heritage Center on Sophie St. in Bessemer. Meetings are open to anyone with an interest in genealogy and will normally fall on the first Wednesday of the month. I know our meeting dates may seem like moving targets and I apologize for that. Board members are spread out, with two from Ironwood, one Bessemer and three from Presque Isle, Wis. I'm thankful for each one of them—They are all involved in so many different organizations, but are dedicated to the GRGS. The quarterly meetings will be January, April, July, and October. There will probably be a meeting in August also as we prepare for the annual meeting in September. Speaking of which-----

If you have any ideas for the annual program or any programs, please pass them on to us and we'll give them due consideration.

--Check out the links on Gogebicroots. One link worthy of special note for its local history and genealogy is mattsonworks.com. The site has a wealth of information. One of the most helpful areas is that of local city directories dating back to 1888.

--Having difficulty locating that long lost ancestor? Guess we all do. We all have challenges. The Jackson County Genealogical Chapter in Iowa passed on some tongue in cheek New Year's resolutions that give an idea how many obstacles we encounter in trying to zero in on that long lost great, great whoever who may have been a hero or a scoundrel.

--I resolve to see to it that all of my children have the same proper names that my ancestors have used for at least six generations in a row.

--My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice in any document.

--when the tax payer comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.

--I resolve to move to a new town, new county or new state at least once every ten years just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.

--I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer.

--In the above manner, I will enshrine myself and my progeny to the whims of all those descendants who wish me to be more like they believe they are.

As a result of the above, we genealogists need all the help we can get. Send us the names of the missing links in your family and we'll publish them in the next newsletter.

Have a wonderful summer!

Gary Harrington, Pres. GRGS

