

Gogebic Range Genealogical Society

October 2013

We are still alive and kicking, although the number of newsletters might indicate otherwise. It's just one area where we could use some help. This summer again has seen many folks coming to the North Woods to find the long lost family member to add another name to their pedigree charts. If you let us know you are heading this way, we'll gladly try to get some info together and then help you get started on your search when you get to the area.

If it's been awhile since you last visited Ironwood, you'll be thrilled to see the new Depot Park. A pavilion now stands across the lawn from the depot, and a perfect complement it is to the depot. The portion of Frederick Street between Lowell and Suffolk has been closed to through traffic. What now awaits you is a park, featuring the depot, pavilion, water fountain, motorized and non-motorized trails. Michigan's governor dedicated the bike trail as the trailhead for the most westerly portion of the state-long bike trail originating near the Ohio border. The ATV trail now runs between the depot and the post office, and the snowmobile trail will still run east to west through the park.

Another attraction not to be missed is at the corner of McLeod and Suffolk Street. A mural with over 100 hand painted pictures of actual miners was dedicated last summer. The pictures were drawn from photos of the men. Not a day goes by where you don't see people sitting on the park bench across the street from the mural gazing at their relative or friend, or generally taking in the entire mural and visualizing the days when mining set the pace for the area.

FEEDBACK

John Pozega notified us that he recognized the picture of Hazel E. Linstrom in the November 2013 as a distant relative. He located obits for a sister Rose, her mother Nels, and Hazel herself. John said it looks like Hazel was born in Ironwood in 1901, graduated from Ironwood High School in 1920, married in 1926, moved to Commonwealth, Wisconsin, and passed away in 1959. Thanks John! We appreciate the feedback. We

welcome others to weigh in on photos or anything else. ...John also mentioned would like more information on Gavan C. O'Donahue, a brother of his maternal grandfather who passed away May 3, 1954. He was born in Mellen, Wisconsin. How and where he died is a mystery. He was in the 1940 census working as a laborer on the railroad in Mellen. He enlisted in the army November 1942, and was discharged four months later. He was back in Mellen in January 1944, when his brother was killed in action in Italy during WWII. John believes Gavan is buried in the Union Cemetery in Mellen.

GRIM DEATH AHEAD

This heading for a story in the Lake Superior Citizen, April 7, 1894, has a surprise ending so read on....

The people of Ironwood will never forget the fearful epidemic of typhoid fever which afflicted this community last year, making over a thousand people suffer from its awful ravages, and sending over a hundred to an early grave. Will there be a revisitation of the epidemic this year?

People are acquainted with the details of the discussion between two aldermen at a recent meeting of the council, wherein one condemned the Montreal River water, and the other putrid city wells. How long will this uncertainty last as to whether our water is pure or not?

If there is any doubt as to its being wholesome, is it right to run the risk of losing your life by drinking it.

Why not be on the safe side and put in a supply of Val Blatz's bottled beer, all the brands of which have been pronounced by eminent physicians to be entirely wholesome and an excellent tonic.

Better spend a nickel for a good glass of Blatz's keg-beer, when you are thirsty, than to risk injuring your health by using water.

Val Blatz Brewers is listed in the 1888 city directory as being located at the Ironwood Depot, Ayer Street. (The present depot was built in 1892) there was ample opportunity to locate Blatz beer as there were 55 saloons located in Ironwood in that year.



Do you know this person? She one of hundreds whose image was scanned from glass negatives taken by Jones Studio. She is identified as S. Peterson. Circa 1920 to 1925.

DID YOU KNOW?

-Sept 2, 1887 L.L. Wright assumed superintendency of Ironwood schools.
-Sept 11, 1932 Ironwood Junior College established.
-Sept 17, 1887 Ironwood leveled by fire.
-Sept 20, 1919 First plane arrived in Gogebic County, owned by Ironwood Post #5. Landed on Lake Road just east of Mt. Zion.
-Sept 23, 1930 Gogebic County Airport dedicated.
-Sept 24, 1926 Pabst Mine Disaster---3 men killed and 43 entombed for 5 nights and 6 days.
-Sept 28, 1907 Norrie Band has been engaged for opening night at the Armory Roller Rink.

Way back---taken from the Ironwood Times February 14, 1920 and looking back from that vantage point.

"Can you remember Ironwood when"

-It had four bands-The Norrie, The Twin City, The World's Fair Band, and the Hibernica?
-The WMCCA at the corner of Lowell and Aurora?
-The Curry Rifles, a military organization, had headquarters in the Pierce Opera House?
-Phillip Atkinson was proprietor of the Davis House?
-It had the Ideal Coffee House?
-Chris Bennett was local editor of the Daily Advocate?
-M.W. Hurt was superintendent of the Mount Hope Mine?
-W.S. Cleggett ran a barber shop on Ayer Street?
-Thomas Mays was proprietor of the Cash Grocery?
-S.S. Curry was president of the Metropolitan Iron and Land Company?
-Walter Goodland was editor of the Ironwood Times?
-Sidney Hirsh ran a clothing store of Suffolk Street?
-C.F. Houk conducted a drug store on Suffolk Street?
-Chris P. Lee was a bookkeeper?
-Frank Lesselyong had a plumbing shop on Ayer Street?
-R.E. Mace was a clerk for Fred M. Prescott?
-William Nast ran a butcher shop?
-James Oxnam had a grocery store on Aurora Street?
-Fred M. Prescott handled hardware and mining supplies?
-C.A. Hanscom had everything in the insurance line?
-Cosmopolitan News Depot was located on Suffolk Street?
-J.A. Tederstrom had the Leader Store?
-Thomas and McCabe had a drug store at 200 Suffolk Street?
-Vivian Prince was a U.S. Commissioner?
-Ben Jusson was chief of the Hurley fire department?
-Sam W. Walker was principal of the Pence School?

Finnish Immigration

Finnish immigrants represented the largest ethnic group coming to this area. Personal accounts help us understand their stories. Eddie Sandene, President of the Bessemer Area Historical Society, and foremost expert on Finnish genealogy, wrote in the October 2001 newsletter about his mother's journey. "Mother began her journey in Lestijarvi, Finland in 1909 at the age of 17. She traveled to Hanko on the south coast of Finland, which was one of the embarkation points for Finnish immigrants. Her passport was stamped May 11, 1909 and she sailed on May 12, 1909. The sailing and travel information is taken from the Institute of Migration passenger records. She sailed from Finland to England on the Titania and from England to Quebec on the Empress of Ireland, which belonged to the CPR Line. The price of the ticket was \$42."

Further research shows that many Finns took this route. The usual route on this voyage was Hanko to Hull, England then overland by rail to Liverpool. This was a popular departure point to Canada and the United States. The CPR mentioned above stood for Canadian Pacific Railroad, which was then able to transport by rail to points inland. The winter landing site was at Halifax due to the St. Lawrence River freezing over. The Empress of Ireland was a rather new ship as it was built in 1906. It was 167 meters long, 20 meters wide at the widest point, and had a speed of 20 knots. On May 29, 1914 while traveling on the St. Lawrence River she was rammed by a Norwegian ship, the Storstadin. She sank taking 1015 passengers down with her. Only 21 Finns were saved.

The Canadian Pacific Railroad controlled the Soo Line through ownership of common stock, preferred stock, and mortgage bonds.

The Gogebic Range Genealogical Society held its annual meeting September 24 at the Ironwood Depot Museum. Margaret Livingston was present and was elected to the board of directors. Gary Harrington was reelected. Thanks Margaret for stepping forward and agreeing to join the team. Incumbent officers were reelected:

President Gary Harrington
Vice Pres/Secretary Diane Eagan
Treasurer Dwight Filippini

Committees

Cemetery Coordinator Dwight Filippini
Librarian Tim Eagan
Newsletter Gary Harrington
Webmaster &
Membership Director Gail Speer
Research G. Harrington & M. Livingston
Public Relations *vacant*