

Gogebic Range Genealogical Society
November 2013
Newsletter

Feedback from readers of our newsletters is always welcome and encouraged. Art Englund recognized one of the photos from two years ago and sent an email about the family. He also asked for help in locating a relative, Kristian Edvard Klo (Kloo) who was born in Iskmo, Finland outside of Vasa in 1873. His wife, Maria Isaksdotter Loo, was also born in Isko in 1870. They migrated to the U.S. to Michigan in 1892, perhaps to Bessemer, as a daughter, Wilhellmina Klo, was born in Bessemer in June, 1896. The family story had been that Kristian was killed in a mine accident. Recent info, however, suggests that he may have been murdered some time during the period 1896 to 1898. His wife, Maria, and daughter returned to Finland in late 1898 as Marian died in Finland Jan. 16, 1899. Updated family research indicates Kristian may have been a foreman for a logging company.

Any info on the above? Let us know we'll forward to Art.

Oliver Miners Honored

The Gogebic Range owed its existence to mining and the GRGS wants to assure the genealogy of the mining era is preserved and fostered. Here's a partial list of 143 employees whose service was recognized by the Oliver Iron Mining company's Gogebic District operations. They were honored at a banquet December 16, 1950 in the Ironwood Memorial Building.

50 Years—Henry C. Inch of Hurley received a diamond lapel service award, a gold watch, and a scroll indicating he is one of 22 employees who in the history of Oliver Mining Company, has served 50 years or more. What a monumental achievement! Mr. Inch served the company for the first half of the 20th Century.

45 Years—George Eddy, Chester L. Hoffman, Gustaf Mazner, Thomas D. Slade, John O. Strand, and William Watson.

40 Years-- Carl M. Anderson, Michael Beauchamp, August F. Beller, James A. Durkee, Harry Gill, Emil J. Hogberg, William W. Hunn, Carlo Ilemini, Axel L. Jacobson, Magnus Johnson, Albert Kasorzyk, Peter P. Laclaw, Arvid Maki, Ivar N. Niemi, John T. Nicholls, Anton A. Pavlak, William F. Riley, Domenic Segalin, Charles A. Schmalz, Thomas Waley, William J. Wagner, and Giuseppe Zanon. (Daily Globe 16/16/1950).



“Done! Everyone in the family tree has been found and everything is perfectly organized, including the photos” -said No genealogist ever.

I don't think any family searcher has ever said that the work is done, but instead said, “Well guess I can start on one of the other branches.” Don't forget that those of us with the GRGS are ready to help you get going on another family branch if you find your ancestors lived on the Gogebic Range. A good place to start is with the gogebicroots website and its 70,000 plus names with death dates and dates obits were published in local newspapers. We'll also try to steer you to the appropriate county or city source for primary documents or to a church for family records.

A wonderful site is mattsonworks.com. Not only does the site have city directories, but also a wealth of other information.

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We've listed local sources before, but in case you don't have them available here are some primary contact points.

Gogebic County Clerk, county court house, Bessemer—Birth, death and marriage records
Phone 906-663-4518

Ironwood City Clerk—Memorial Building
Burial info for Riverside Cemetery, Ironwood—
Phone 906-932-5050

Iron county Court House, Register of Deeds
Hurley, Wis.—Birth, death, and marriage records.
Phone 715-561-4715

Hurley City Clerk
405 5th Ave. North
Burial info for Hurley Cemetery
Phone 715-561-4715

*“Census Taker does heap of walking”
The following article appeared in The Ironwood News Record on June 30, 1894: “When the state census of this section of country was taken ten years ago, Henry “Hank” Powers, now editor of the Ontonagon Herald, was the enumerator. He followed Indian trails through the wilderness from Ontonagon as far west as Hurley. Henry came up with a lumber or mining camp or two in the vicinity of Gogebic Lake and what is now Wakefield and would count the noses, but the doughty little enumerator did*

a heap of walking in those days of ten years ago and mighty little enumerating. Ironwood wasn't on the map at that time and it didn't succeed in bringing itself into prominence until several years later. The government census taken in June 1890 showed Ironwood with a population of 7800.” Note—I think we can see from the venture of this census taker why we can't always locate our gggrandfather who may have been a pioneer on what became the Gogebic Range.

December in years past

1903 Dec. 4—The section men of the C&NW and Wis. Central railroads in Ironwood and Hurley went on a strike when informed that their pay had been cut from \$1.75 to \$1.25 per day.

1968 Dec. 7—Ironwood's first snowmobile derby.

1913 Dec. 14—Pierce Theater—The world's record breaking ski jumping tournament held in Ironwood last Feb. in marvelous motion pictures. Popular prices 5 cents and 10 cents.

1836 Dec. 15—“Toledo War” gives U.P. to Michigan.

1913 Dec. 19—Detroit was the only city in Michigan having larger postal savings deposits than Ironwood at the end of the fiscal year June 30, 1913.

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A bit of Newspaper History

The Ironwood Daily Globe printed a commemorative edition Nov. 20, 1969. Among several interesting facts of history, it credits The Gogebic Explorer as being the first area newspaper published in the area. The weekly newspaper was published in Bessemer, with the first issue being dated Thursday, June 4, 1885. Annual subscription rate was \$2, the paper ceased publication after the 11th week. Original copies of all 11 issues of the paper are preserved in the University of Michigan Historical collections at Ann Arbor, a gift of Victor F. Lemmer of Ironwood, noted local historian. Owners of the paper were Jeffres and Kikelson, who had a hardware store at Bessemer. They were agents selling mining machinery and supplies and also were representatives of the Lake Superior Powder Company.

Cribbing freely from other newspapers and magazines, the Explorer managed to fill eight pages every week. Page one normally addressed issues concerning mining, e.g. tonnages, prospects on old and new finds, and mechanical improvements. The second and third pages generally carried fictional stories with an obvious moral content and hints on feminine beauty and hygiene.

There was the usual interest in Macabre occurrences such as fatal crimes of passion and lover's quarrels that ended in tragedy, but these items were fewer than those of a more light-hearted nature.

Following are highlights of topics:

June 18, 1885—Richard Langford is 57 years old today and has spent 33 years of his life in the wilds of Northern Michigan. Richard has concluded to make Bessemer his home for the future, having bought four lots in Hibbing's Addition (Bessemer) where he will build a home. Note—You may remember Langford as one of the two men credited with discovering ore on the Gogebic Range.

July 9, 1885—The survey of the town of ironwood is about completed and lots will soon be placed upon the market. All even numbered lots \$150 and all others of the same order \$125, and odd numbered being reserved for special sales. The sale of these Ironwood lots is in the hand of the railroad Company.

First issue states: "Between the influx of gold seekers and summer tourists, Lake Gogebic is likely to assume a very lively appearance this season.

Sept. 10, 1885--Mr. and Mrs. Capt. J.A. Wood visited Hurley Wednesday. He seems to enjoy married life, as he has gained 15 pounds and is on the gain. That he may continue to gain in health, wealth, and happiness, are the best wishes of his many friends. (This appears to be the Norrie capt. for whom Ironwood is named.)

The Ashland Press stated that the Gogebic Explorer was the first newspaper published in the Gogebic mining country.

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Do you know these people?



Milton Brown



Kacser Girl

From glass negatives circa

1910 -1925

Sink or Swim

We're paddling as fast as we can to keep our finances above water. Our primary income comes from memberships, obits, and donations. For the past several months our expenses have topped our income. In trying to reverse that trend, the GRGS Board discussed possible remedies. Our bottom line is not found in the checkbook, but in our continuing service to those with roots to the Gogebic Range and to preserving genealogy in that region. However, we have to be somewhat practical to keep the GRGS moving forward. We took a minimal step by raising the fee for each obit from \$2 to \$3. We believe our obit service is well worth that price and more.

We welcome your suggestions on how to keep the GRGS above water, and enjoy hearing from you about anything on your mind in the realm of genealogy. Also we would welcome input for up-coming newsletters.

Till next newsletter we wish you a joyous holiday season.

Gary Harrington
