

**Gogebic Range Genealogical society**  
**Newsletter**  
**October 3, 2014**

**Mission Statement**

The Gogebic Range Genealogical Society is a non-profit volunteer group whose mission is to promote and assist with the research and preservation of genealogy and family history of the Gogebic Range. This area encompasses Gogebic County, Michigan and Iron County, Wisconsin

The GRGS annual meeting was held September 18 at the Depot Museum. On the business side, there were two board vacancies. There were no nominations from the floor nor any ballots received. By unanimous vote, Tim Egan was reelected. Present officers were retained. They are:

Pres. Gary Harrington

Vice Pres. Diane Egan

Acting Secretary Diane Egan

Acting treasurer Dwight Filippini

An informative program followed, a recorded webinar on CD entitled "Behind the Cheese Curtain, WI Genealogy Resources" by Thomas MacEntee. The CD presented a multitude of suggestions for searching for your ancestors in Wisconsin. Particularly helpful were several websites that were highlighted. Feedback from those in attendance indicated wholehearted approval of the webinar.

One of the more pleasurable aspects of being involved with the GRGS is being able to help those who come to the Gogebic Range in search of ancestors. We're often able to use available resources to find those elusive family members. Even if that doesn't happen, we can suggest a plan of attack for the visitor.

*I was on the receiving end of many acts of kindness this summer, which led to a long-lost Harrington family Bible ending up in my hands. Here's the story---- I received a call from Marcia in Chicago in which she related she had come upon a website similar to the now defunct site "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness" which had a request for help in locating a direct descendant of Myron Harrington who had received a Bible from his father, Asel Harrington, in 1860. The story was aired on TV stations WQAD and WHO in Iowa. As we later discovered, the Bible was saved from a house in Clinton, Iowa that was being torn apart to rebuild. One of the workers saved the Bible and passed it to his sister who is very interested in genealogy. She took the initiative to contact WQAD TV, which aired a story detailing the mystery of the Harrington Bible. My Aunt Alyce in Ames, Iowa was watching the news on WHO Des Moines and saw the story. She immediately called me. Long story short, my wife, Linda, and I headed for Clinton after making contact with Jada Cavinder and her daughter Dona Speakman. Two kinder individuals you will never meet! They arranged to have the TV crew back to their house to film the turn-over of the Bible to me. An interesting side note is that we have no idea how the Bible ended up in a house in Clinton, which is about thirty miles from Maquoketa, where most of my family lived for over a hundred years. As far as we know, no direct Harrington descendents had moved to Clinton over the years. When you hang around with genealogists, good things happen.*

## *Aarre Lahti—Finnish artist made his mark on the Gogebic Range*

*Visit the Memorial Building, walk upstairs, enter the former Ironwood Women's Club room, and look to the right. There you will see a painting by Aarre Lahti that portrays so many of the recipients of the Women's Club's generosity, among which were education, music, health, Scouts, and more. What do we know about this important person? His obituary reveals much.*

*"Aarre Kotivalo Lahti, 84, of Miami, formerly of Ann Arbor, Professor Emeritus of Design at the University of Michigan, died Thursday, Jan. 21, 1993, at his winter home in Miami.*

*Mr. Lahti was born April 27, 1908 in Helsinki, Finland, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Lahti. While attending the School of Art of the Art Institute of Chicago, he met his wife, the Irma Salo, also a student. They were married in 1945.*

*He graduated with a fellowship which culminated in an exhibition of his paintings in Paris at the Salo d'Automne.*

*After opening a gallery of fine art and photography in Ironwood, he became the designer and supervisor of the Upper Peninsula WPA Arts and Crafts project. He came to the University of Michigan as an instructor of design in 1941 and taught for 32 years.*

*Mr. Lahti also worked with the Engineering Research Institute and the marketing Research Department of the Ford Motor Company. In 1957, he presented his paper, "The Gas Turbine Family Car" at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society of Automotive Engineers. A Rackman Grant was presented to him in 1957 to make a*

*comparative study of American and Finnish designer motivation.*

*IN 1961, he received a second grant, enabling him to travel to Cape Dorset, Baffin Island, to work for the administration with the Eskimos on bathing and shelter problems. Professor Lahti's views on industrial design education were published in "Industrial Design" magazine and he was a regular contributor to "School Shop."*

*He was a member of the Industrial Design Institute, the Industrial Design Education Assn., the Industrial Designers Society of America, and the American Association of University Professors.*

*Survivors include his wife, Irma; two sons, Alekis of Whitemore Lake, MI. and Ahde of Los Angeles, Cal. And five grandchildren.*

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## **Atlas Athletic Club and the Labor Sports Union**

The Atlas Athletic Club was prominent in local sports in the 1930s and was sponsored by the Labor Sports Union, a Finnish socialist organization. I became interested in this research upon being contacted by a member of the Northern Michigan history dept looking for information about the Union and its teams. Various write-ups in the Daily Globe reveal that the Atlas team played basketball, baseball and also participated in track, sometimes competing with non-Labor Sports teams and often competing in Labor Sports championship tournaments. A March 8, 1933 Globe write-up details an Atlas 25-22 basketball win over the Iron Belt Cubs at the Palace Hall. Atlas players were Hokkanen, U. Puisto, Kartinen, Keskinen, HKelin, A. Puisto, Tumbula. Playing for Iron Belt were Testolin, Sekelsky, Da Roneo, Rosendahl, and Negrini. The same Atlas team won the U.P. Championship of the Labor Sports Union, held in Hancock. In January, 1934 they beat the North Side amateurs 34-32 after a hard fought game, in which both teams" played aggressive

ball throughout the game."Playing for the North Side were some familiar names—Frederick, Albert, Ahonen, Leponsky, Sullivan, Sher Wyzlik, and Petrosky. (Globe January 31, 1934) Some people remember the Palace Hall where basketball was played and other events held. It was on E. Pewabic St. near or on the corner with Suffolk and built by the Finnish Socialists. (Globe April 5, 1933). Let us know if you recall the Palace Hall.



**Faye Robinson of Bessemer**

Do you remember Faye or her family?  
(Scanned from a glass negative at the Ironwood Area Historical society—Circa 1925)

### **The Flying Nun**

*Long before the TV show "The Flying Nun" aired, sister M. Aquinas acquired that name for her exploits in teaching science and aeronautics at St. Ambrose High School in Ironwood and as head of the Air-Age Department at Catholic University in Washington D.C.*

*The Daily globe, 8/13/1943 announced that Sister Aquinas, The Flying Nun, would return from Catholic University to teach a course at St. Ambrose entitled Aeronautics II. Her progressive approach to instruction appeared to*

*be well ahead of her contemporaries. The course would include a review of Last year's aeronautics material for the second year students and acquaint new students with the fundamentals of the science. Juniors and seniors who have had or who will take physics concurrently with aeronautics will be permitted to take the course. In connection with this current aviation, as last year, will be the student's handbook. Texts will be used as reference materials. The national Radio Institute kits will be used in connection with the laboratory.*

*The course starts with broadcasting programs in a studio and shows the progress of the wave to the loud speaker of the receiver. The course then analyzes the instruments used in the process and the electrical principles underlying their operation. Induction by electro-magnetism, reaction, and tuning will also be studied in detail in a manner quite comprehensive to the student. The course was presented as a valuable asset to any student entering the physics-aeronautics group or the commercial group, as there is no end to the opportunity afforded to the well-trained high school graduate now.*

*St. Ambrose Alumni may remember also Sister Aquinas as sponsor of the senior class, active in Promoting extra-curricular affairs, creator of the science and photography clubs, and director of the annual class plays. They also may recall that she was a registered pilot during WWII.*

### **October Happenings**

- Oct 4, 1913 – Rugby football, Ironwood vs Washburn at 2:30 sharp.
- Oct 8, 1871 – Raphael Pompelly discovers iron ore on Ironwood's Newport Hill.
- Oct 12, 1913 – The cornerstone for the new Newport Methodist Episcopal Church will be laid Sunday.
- Oct 14, 1896 – William Jennings Bryan visits Ironwood.
- Oct 30, 1903 – New trolley cars arrived.

