

The Gogebic Range Genealogical Society  
Newsletter  
August, 2018

Greetings from Gogebic County, Michigan and Iron County, Wisconsin in the beautiful North Woods. We're located in what is known as the Gogebic Iron Range. Specifically, the Gogebic Range Directory of 1938 has the following to describe the range:

The Gogebic Iron Range is one of the numerous iron producing areas embraced within the Lake Superior District. It lies from 12 to 25 miles south of Lake Superior and from a point near Lake Gogebic, extends westerly through the cities of Wakefield, Bessemer, and Ironwood, Michigan and Hurley, Wisconsin, runs a few miles south of Mellen, Wisconsin, and finally disappears near Lake Namakagon, which is located 25 miles southwest of Ashland, Wisconsin. From end to end it measures about 80 miles and lies in the form of a crescent which is concave to the southeast two-thirds of it in Wisconsin, but the most productive portion being found in Michigan. Its location is marked by two distinct ridges of hills, the more southerly of which closely follows the southern limit of the iron formation. The northerly ridge marks the southerly edge of the Keweenaw lava flow, while the softer sedimentary rocks lie in the valley between. Considered as a whole, the iron bearing formation is narrow, being seldom ever over one-half a mile in width. It pitches steeply to the northward at approximately 63 degrees from the horizontal.

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### **Helping to create a family history----**

At times we have the opportunity to assist a family in their organization of information for a family book. That opportunity presented itself when The GRGS was approached by Stan Oliphant, husband of Diane Rigoni-Oliphant. Diane had been battling ALS, a debilitating disease. Over the years Diane had compiled information for use in a family book featuring the Rigoni and Malmberg families of Ironwood and needed help in organizing the material, much of which had been collected on her visits to Italy. Margaret Livingston of the GRGS board gladly agreed to help. Together Diane and Margaret began to meet and sorted through hundreds of pictures, piecing together individual stories and vital information. The family also expressed their utmost gratitude for the help of a special friend and facilitator, Kathy Rigoni. Diane presented a copy of the completed book in November, 2017, to Margaret and Gary Harrington of the GRGS. The book (known as Diane's Book ) is available for visitors to review at the Historic Ironwood Depot Archives room. Sadly, Diane passed away March 25, 2018 at the age of 74. Her obituary highlights a full life of giving and accomplishment. She was born at the residence of Rigoni's Inn where her parents Reno and Marion (Malmberg) Rigoni lived. She attended Newport Elementary School and graduated from St. Ambrose Catholic School in 1962.

**Join us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/groups/gogebicroots](http://www.Facebook.com/groups/gogebicroots)**

***Are you a Pioneer Family? Did your family live on the Gogebic Range before  
Dec. 31, 1900***

***One of the benefits of membership in the GRGS is your entitlement to apply for recognition as a Pioneer Family. There is a fee of \$20 that must be submitted with your application. You will need to provide documented proof of each generation back to your pioneer descendent. Upon approval you will be provided with a certificate recognizing your status.***

***The following have been recently recognized as Pioneer Families:***

***Michelle Van Ess is a direct descendent of Frans Edward Sandquist who lived in Ironwood, Michigan in 1892 or earlier.***

***Thomas Jerow is a direct descendent of Thomas Ashlund who lived in Wakefield, Michigan in 1885 or earlier.***

***Catherine Jean Laforge Tonkin is a direct descendent of Guiseppi Angelo Chiono who lived in Hurley, Wisconsin in 1888 or earlier.***

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***As we mentioned previously, the Gogebic Range Gen. Soc. holds its meetings at the Historic Ironwood Depot, home of the Ironwood Area Hist. Soc.(IAHS). The museum at the Depot has a store which sells books and memorabilia. One of the newer book acquisitions is "A History of Italian Immigrants from the Seven Towns of the Asiago Plateau in the Region of the Vineto in Italy on the Gogebic Iron Range of Mich. and Wis. From the 1890s to the 1950s." The book profiles many of these families. Written by Peter Oberto, this second edition has been eagerly awaited by many. The price is \$25.***

***Another book recently acquired is "Black River Harbor." This book tells a story of a settlement on Lake Superior's South Shore twenty miles from Ironwood. The price is \$20. You can make arrangements for purchase by stopping by the museum store or contacting the Gogebic Range Gen. Soc. by email [gogebicroots.com](http://gogebicroots.com)., or the Ironwood Area Hist. Soc. by phone at 906-932-0287***

### Roosevelt School in North Ironwood

Roosevelt School recently held an all class reunion celebrating the school's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing an outstanding education to hundreds of students in grades kindergarten through ninth grade. The Ironwood Area Historical Society's summer 2018 newsletter, The Whistle, provided a historical summary of Roosevelt through the years.

"The Ironwood Township School Board announced June 14, 1918 that they would receive bids for the construction and erection of a two room school building on Section 34-48-47. The bids were to be opened at another township school— Central

--On July 7, 1919 the school Board moved that the new building now under construction at Section 35 and heretofore known as the Section 35 School, shall hereafter be known as Roosevelt School.

In a rural school, one might expect a pause to help in the fields. Accordingly, The Daily Globe of Sept. 25, 1920 announced the following: **Schools closed for two days for spud digging.**

--The Ironwood Daily globe of 10/29/1932 announced a huge expansion of Roosevelt. The \$42,000 addition was to be two stories high, with seven new classrooms, and featuring a 70 by 70 feet gymnasium. This would provide the first indoor playground. Showers and lockers were being installed beneath the gymnasium bleachers which would seat 450 persons. A moving picture booth was also being built.

### Civil war vets in the Ironwood Area

Although the Civil War ended in 1865, almost twenty years prior to the settlement of the Ironwood area, several of the veterans found their way to the area in the late 1880s and 1890s, many looking for jobs. A bronze tablet in the Ironwood Memorial Building bears the names of forty-one Civil War Vets who died in Ironwood. If you have information on any of the following names please contact the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society.

Adams, John

Baxter, R. A.

Bennett, Delos

Blanchard, John

Borouin, F.B.

Brazeo, F.B.

Buck, Curtis

Burt, Mason

Carus, O. H.

Darrow, E. A.

Fornier, C. D.

Goodwin, A. D.

Green, Alexander

Hamilton, J. S.

Harkins, G. W.

Iliff, Leonard

Juneau, Elia

LaMielle, Peter

Lasch, Gustav

Loope, G. L.

Lyon, J. F.

Maloney, Walter

McAllister, Geo.

McConnell, A.

McLean, John

Mead, S. D.

Monroe, E. M.

Monroe, J. E.

Newton, J. B.

Pierce., W. L.

Rieble, Celestin

Sanson, John

Scott, S. N.

Stewart, C. P.

Stone, Wm.

Tetro, O.

Volk, Wm. H.

Walker, P. S.

Watson, W. L.

White, Alansin

Williams, White

## Edwin M. Monroe—Ironwood's Last Civil War Veteran

Edwin M. Monroe died at his home at 314 Albany St. at the age of 93. Mr. Monroe was not only Ironwood's last Civil War veteran, but also was the last of a group of veterans who lived in Gogebic County for many years and were members of Pleasanton Post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. Monroe was born in Mt. Clemens on December 11, 1838 and enlisted with the Twenty-second Michigan Infantry in August of 1861. He saw battle in several campaigns, being wounded in the neck at Kennesaw Mountain in Georgia. At Stone Ridge part of his kneecap was shot away. He also took part in Sherman's raid to the sea.

After the war, he returned to Mount Clemens where he married Lucy M. Gains. He worked as a carpenter. One day he met a lumber salesman who told him of the discovery of iron ore on the Gogebic Range and the need for carpenters there. This information led him to come to Ironwood by way of Detroit and Sault Ste Marie. He walked the rest of the way.

During the day he worked on buildings being erected on Aurora St and at night worked on his home, Mrs. Monroe holding a lamp so he could see.

He helped lay out the Riverside Cemetery and then was employed as sexton for twenty years. Later he was employed as a teamster at the mines and did other work until he retired.

For many years he was a familiar figure in Memorial Day parades.

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Until next newsletter, we wish you happy searching. Let us know if you have any input for future newsletters. We will try to be more timely with their publication.

Enjoy the beauty of fall.

Gary Harrington