

Gogebic Genealogical Society
Newsletter
November, 2019

Greetings from the North Woods. Now is the time to haul out your family records, find a cozy corner, and get to work on uncovering those elusive ancestors. Then contact us if you need help.

When visitors come to town, we try to put them in touch with local genealogy sources. The following are the most requested contacts:

Gogebic county Clerk—Hours 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

County Court House—Bessemer
Phone—906-663-4518
Website—gogebic.org
Death, birth, and marriage records

Ironwood City Clerk—Memorial Building

Burial information for Riverside Cemetery
Phone—906-932-5050 ext 121
[Email—gullank@cityironwood.org](mailto:gullank@cityironwood.org)

Iron County Court House, Register of Deeds

Hurley, Wis.
Phone—715-561-2945
Death, birth and marriage records

Hurley City Clerk

405 5th Ave. North
Burial information for Hurley Cemetery
Phone—715-561-4715

Internet sites:

--**Gogebicroots.com**

--Gogebic Range Gen. Soc. site—obits, newsletters, and important links and find us on Facebook @www.facebook.com/groups/Gogebicroots/

--**Mattsonworks.com**

--City directories, cemetery info, local history, and much more.

--**Carnegie Library in Ironwood**—Heritage Quest to access local newspapers.

Cricket in Ironwood?

A cricket match in Ironwood would at first glance appear to be out of character for the fledging mining community; however, an article from the *Ironwood News Record* of July 21, 1894, may provide some clarity. “An interesting game of cricket was played in Central Park last Saturday afternoon between the first and second elevens of the local club. There was some excellent bowling by both sides, and in the second inning, which could not be finished on account of rain, John Park rolled up a score of 25 runs doing effective work.” A common denominator appears to be the ethnicity of the players. We know many of the first miners to arrive in the area were Cornish. Without researching each name, a casual look at the players’ names suggests that is the case here. Many of the names are found today, for example, Trethewey and Richards. The article goes on to invite all lovers of cricket to the practice games in the park every afternoon.

Remember the Viaduct?

From the *Ironwood Daily Globe* of February 24, 1920 came the announcement that the city council was to select Mansfield Street as the site for the proposed viaduct over the Chicago and Northwestern and Soo Line Railroads. Per figures submitted by the railroads, the viaduct constructed of timber would cost about \$178, 200. The city’s share of the construction was to be 25% or about \$44,500. The city council was to ask the companies to construct a concrete and steel bridge, which would up the cost to about \$61,000. What a venerable structure that became, causing cars to drive between banks of snow and blow their horns at the intersection and yes, some of us to hop over the trains on our trek to school in lieu of the long and unsafe winter walk over the viaduct. The viaduct did, however, seem to reduce the wait for lengthy ore trains at the Suffolk and Lowell crossings.

Scourge of the Spanish Flu

From the *Ironwood News Record* of October 12, 1918 came word that two more Ironwood soldiers have died of Spanish influenza at the training camps in this country, and a number of others are seriously ill with the disease.

John L. Dickman, son of John L. Dickman, 125 Ash Street, died at Camp Mills, Long Island, at 10 AM Wednesday after a short illness. He was a private in Co. D, 122nd Infantry, and had been at Camp Mills about two weeks, being sent there from Camp Oglethorpe, Ga. He was one of the 236 Gogebic County selects sent to Mason last June.

Born in Ironwood in 1889, he had resided all his life in this city, and previous to entering the army was employed by the Scott and Howe Lumber Co. He is survived by his father and several brothers and sisters. (Oct. 12, 1918)

Charles J. Peters, son of Mrs. Charles Sheldon, Mabel Street, died of Spanish Influenza at Camp Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, Thursday night, word to that effect having been received by Mrs. Sheldon yesterday. Private Peters left Ironwood with the contingent of 138 selective draft men who were sent to Camp Custer on Aug. 28, being transferred later to Camp Harrison. (News Record Oct. 12, 1918)

Omer Brunell of this city, died of pneumonia at Great Lakes Naval Station, Illinois, Tuesday night. Spanish Influenza, of which the medical department announced Monday there were 4500 cases at Great Lakes, brought on the conditions which resulted in the young man's death. His Aunt, Mrs. J.B. Parent of this city and his mother, Mrs. O. Brunell, of Hurley, were at the Great lakes when he died, arriving here Tuesday morning in response to a telegram from the commanding officer, received Monday morning, notifying them of his serious illness. They arrived here Thursday morning. The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon from St. Ambrose Church and civic honors will be accorded the memory of the young man.

Omer Brunell was the son of Mr. and Mrs. O. Brunell of Hurley. He was adopted by his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Parent, when an infant, and had resided with them ever since. He was 18 years old on June, 1918. He enlisted in the navy the latter part of July, leaving here for the Great Lakes Station on Aug. 5. (News Record Sept. 9, 1918)

Maurice Nelson, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nelson, 126 Mansfield St., died of pneumonia following an attack of Spanish Influenza at Madison, Wis, Thursday night. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson were with their son in the last hours, leaving here Tuesday night. Maurice Nelson left Ironwood three weeks ago to join the Students Army Training Corps at the University of Wisconsin. Graduating from the Ironwood High School in 1916, immediately thereafter he took employment in the laboratory of the Oliver Iron Mining

Co. giving up the position when he left for Madison in Sept. The body will probably arrive in Ironwood today when funeral arrangements will be made. (Ironwood News Record Oct. 19, 1918)

James Fish, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Fish, 321 East Bonnie St, died of influenza pneumonia at Camp Hancock, Georgia, on Nov. 2, 1918. Mrs. Fish and her sister, Mrs. Harris, reached the young man's bedside a few hours before he expired. The body arrived in Ironwood yesterday morning. Mr. Fish was born in January, 1892. He was graduated from the Ironwood High School in 1912, taking an active interest in athletics, both in his school days and since his graduation. He was sent to Valparaiso University in August for special army service, was transferred to Buffalo Technical School and later to Camp Hancock. James Fish, born and reared in ironwood, was a fine type of young American, and the news of his death will bring sorrow to his host of friends. (News Record 11/9/1918)

At this point we should point out that all the above soldiers who died of influenza (most likely Spanish Influenza) are noted on the bronze tablet at the Ironwood Memorial Building with a star denoting having been killed in action. We could probably conclude that Spanish Influenza had a direct impact on the war effort.

Years Ago from the Ironwood Times, various dates

Aug. 23, 1888—Leader of the Republican Party, was known as Jingo Jim.

The Times was inclined to believe that Ironwood should incorporate as a city.

...W. H. Hill opened a new restaurant in Ironwood...Prof. Wright returned, probably to prepare for his winter struggle...Harris Durkee returned from Little Presque Isle with a basket of brook trout and said the fishing was nearly played out...The Norrie Mine had a payday with a payroll of \$36,000...H. E. Fox was at the St. James Hotel for two days to do all kinds of dentistry.

Aug. 17, 1893----Frank Crosby and Will Cook took a bike spin to Gale before breakfast and a large dog at Gile bit a small steak out of Will's left leg and evidently relished the morsel...Dr. J. A McLeod took his wheel with him to camp...Ole Amondson bought a new Crescent bike for his wife from C.E. Hough...Professor Wright wants to change his

Monarch Bike for a lady's wheel...The following folks from Ironwood left for the gold fields of Africa, namely Capt. William Knight, Ernest Knight, Thomas Bennetts, James Cowling, and George Cox. The Ironwood firemen became champions at the tournament held at Ishpeming.

Aug. 13, 1910---W. F. Kelly Owner, of Ironwood's Temple Theater, advertised that we cater to ladies and children and show pictures that are educational and will entertain and broaden the mind----Interest on your money at the bank was 3%, compounded twice a year.

Aug. 14, 1925....The Ku Klux Klan was organized in Gogebic County and the times was opposed to it....The merchants on the Gogebic Iron Range closed their places of business to attend an Indian Pageant at Ashland.

Aug. 15, 1930...The popular excursion trip via the C&NW Ry to Chicago and return to Ironwood was \$7.80 for the round trip.

Aug. 16, 1935---Ironwood was suffering from an invasion from a gang of peddlers...The movie at the Ironwood Theater was Shirley Temple in "Curly Top."

Happy researching this winter. Let us know if we can help.

Best wishes for a special Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

Best regards,

Gary Harrington
Gogebic Range Genealogical Society