

Newsletter
Gogebic Genealogical Society
February, 2021

Things have certainly changed in the past year. It seems as if we had no summer in the year 2020. The COVID 19 pandemic dictated our actions. Instead of getting together for family reunions, we stayed home. Treks to our favorite historical sites have at best been minimal.....And it continues.

Comparisons with the pandemic of 1918 are to be expected. We suggest you look at our newsletters of January 2010 and November 2019. The latter highlights the role the virus played in military deaths.

In a loss not related to COVID 19, we announce sadly that our Treasurer for many years, Dwight Filippini, passed away July 25,2020. He accepted the position pending the appointment of a fulltime Treasurer. He became that fulltime Treasurer and was diligent in his duties. Dwight was active in the Bessemer VFW and many other organizations. Dwight will be missed. Margaret Livingston was appointed and volunteered to be Treasurer. Thank you Margaret.

The remainder of the board remains intact.....Gary Harrington, President, Diane Egan, Vice President and Secretary, Gail Speer, Webmaster & Membership, Tim Egan, Librarian. Along with being Treasurer, Margaret will be doing Research with Gary.

E.M. Monroe Passes Away
Ironwood's Last Civil War Veteran

According to the Ironwood Daily Globe of April 18, 1932, Edwin M. Monroe died at 1:15 yesterday at his home at 314 Albany St at the age of 93 years. His health had been failing the last two years and in that time he had not been outside his home.

Monroe was not only Ironwood's last Civil War veteran, but also 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. Monroe worked in several communities as a carpenter and wood worker. He was working on the shore of Lake Champlain when he met a lumber salesman who told him of the discovery of iron ore on the Gogebic range and the need for carpenters. He came to Ironwood by way of Detroit and Sault Ste. Marie. The railroad had been built only as far as Wakefield at that time so he walked the rest of the way to Ironwood.

Monroe arrived here in March, 1887. Hulbert Keese was putting up a building on Aurora Street across the street from where the Curry Hotel was later built. The carpenters finished the frame and then quit. Monroe finished the building. His wife arrived that summer and Keese let them use a room in the store until he built a house on Albany Street where he had purchased a lot. During the day he worked on buildings being erected on Aurora St. and at night worked on his home. He helped lay out the Riverside Cemetery and was employed as sexton for 20 years. Later he was employed as a teamster at the mines and did other work until he retired.

In August of 1861 he volunteered for service and was accepted into the 22nd Michigan Infantry. He took part in the battles at Chicamauga, Lookout Mountain, Stone River and Kenesaw Mountain. At Chicamauga he lost part of a kneecap and at Kenesaw Mountain was wounded in the neck. He also took part in Sherman's raid to the sea.

Can You Remember Ironwood When????

- January 1928 The population of Ironwood was estimated at 20,460 consisting of 3888 families.
- Ironwood had three movie theatres, the Ironwood Theatre, the Rex and Morgan Theatres, Hurley had the Range Theatre. There was the Bessemer Rex and Wakefield Strand Theatres.
- The popcorn wagon was next to Ironwood's Rex Theatre.
- Swimming at Norrie Park in the good ole' summertime and using the changing house.

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, August 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 course, 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.