



# The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

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**The Gogebic  
Roots  
Quarterly  
Newsletter**  
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The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter is a publication of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society, Inc. The Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July and September. We are located in Ironwood, Michigan, USA. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 23, Ironwood, MI 49938.

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Membership dues are based on a calendar year starting with the date of enrollment. The expiration date of your membership is shown on your membership card. If renewal of the dues is not received by the expiration date a reminder is sent. The reason for this is twofold. First and foremost we value your membership and hope you continue to support us. Secondly, our Bylaws state that a member in arrears 30 days after the anniversary date shall be removed from the rolls. Please keep in mind that one reminder only is required in this same section of the Bylaws and is sent in hopes that your membership continues without a lapse. If any member has a question regarding this please feel free to contact us.

Thanks for your continued support.

## **THE WAKEFIELD PIONEER BOOK AND OTHER HISTORICAL PROJECTS**

**By Bruce K. Cox**

In the spring of 1978 I made my first investigations into our family history and genealogy. At that time I only knew the names of my ancestors back through the parents of my great great grandfather, Jordan Henry Volley Cox (1875-1966), who had moved to Michigan from the hills of Eastern Kentucky about 1904. It was not long before I made contact with a woman back in Kentucky who was related to me through my great great great grandma Cox, nee Reynolds. She provided all of the Cox generations back through my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandparents, as well as several generations of the Reynolds family.

Researching our family genealogy became my favorite pastime, as I dug into every branch of the family, looking for the ancestors and relatives of each of my grandparents. Many hours were spent at courthouses, especially the Gogebic County Courthouse in Bessemer, Michigan. This became an obsession, and all of this activity soon led to the publication of my first book in the spring of 1980, a short family history that attempted to trace the family trees of my grandparents. It may have been a little premature; in 1984 I again published a genealogy, this time concentrating on the Carr family of my maternal grandfather. It was a 112 page book which I am happy to say is still reasonably accurate and "complete" even today; there is not too much that I could add to it. It was followed in 1986 by a book covering my Cox and related ancestry (189 pages), and in 1988 by one (121 + pages) covering my maternal grandmother's Uddenberg and related families. The following year I prepared and distributed a fourth book (62 pages) covering my paternal grandmother's Possanza ancestry from Italy. By 1992 I had accumulated enough new information and records to run off a manuscript updating my Cox book. The pages were not numbered, but it is about 1 ¾ inches thick! This time I decided to do a separate book to cover the Fraley genealogy of my great grandma Cox. I never published it, but it runs over 100 pages.

By 1992 I had pretty much satisfied my curiosity about our family genealogy and history. That was the year that I succeeded in tracing the Cox family back to the immigrant ancestor, William Cox of Virginia. He is believed to be the same William Coxe who arrived in Jamestown aboard the Godspeed circa 1607/10. This was a good year for my genealogical research. One day I read an ad in the Sons of the American Revolution magazine for a book about the ancestry of Louis DuBois, a French Huguenot who settled in New York in the 1660s. He had been reputed to have royal ancestry, and a retired executive had recently traced it back through Chretien DuBois to Charlemagne and King Henry I of England and others. I purchased a copy of his book and filled in about 300 charts with various royal and mythological lines (as a result of further digging). That marked the end of my active searching.

All of this genealogical research had gradually led me to become interested in local history. The techniques needed for doing genealogical research are the same ones needed for doing history. Between 1983 and 2003 I have published about fourteen books on local history, specializing in our mining history. My major project, begun in February 1996, is a series entitled ***Mines of the Pewabic Country of Michigan and Wisconsin***, which will eventually include volumes on Gold and Silver, Copper, Wisconsin Iron, and Michigan Iron. These books will list about 1,250 mines and mineral explorations located from the border of Ontonagon County through Gogebic County, Michigan, and into Iron and Ashland Counties and parts of Bayfield County in Wisconsin. The first two volumes have already been published.

In the fall of 1994 I began working on a book that includes all of the pioneers who settled in Wakefield before 1901. It is somewhat patterned after the books published back in the old days and down South that recorded pioneer families in various regions. It involves looking into old city records, newspapers, voter registration records, church records, census records, and county courthouse records, among others. I wanted to list everybody who resided in Wakefield before 1901, with two generations of his or her descendants, as well as details on their ancestry. Whenever possible I have collected copies of photographs of the pioneers to include in the book. I have not footnoted this book; it is already almost 300 pages long. With footnotes it would be at least 400 pages. Anybody interested in tracing their ancestry can probably recreate the information and trace its origin without many problems. This is a book that will never really be finished; there will always be something to add to it, and this is very easy to do in the age of the personal computer. All of the families are arranged in alphabetical order and cross-referenced to other related families listed in the book. Anyone interested is welcome to add information or photographs or purchase a book. I will make a special effort to research the family of anybody whose ancestors lived here before 1901 and add or revise a listing in the book before selling them a copy, in order to make it as complete as possible. The pages are comb-bound, with a clear plastic sheet over the front page. I am only selling these books on special order, for \$30 plus \$5 for postage and insurance. Anyone interested may contact me at Post Office Box 131, Wakefield, Michigan 49968.

### **The Sweater Letter**

Every couple of months for my job as director of the Ironwood Carnegie Library, I write a column for the Daily Globe called The Book Worm. Although Ontonagon County is, technically, not a part of the Gogebic Range, it is the county immediately northwest. The Daily Globe carries a lot of news of our neighbor, Ontonagon. The Sweater Letter is

a tale of crime gone wrong. Read the article and, if it tickles your fancy, send me an email and I'll tell you how you can get Dave's book.

## Book about Ontonagon crime a 'fast-paced whodunit'

By **JOE CARLSON**

Ironwood Carnegie Library

For those of you who find reading nonfiction is dull, you may change your mind after reading "The Sweater Letter," by Dave and Lynn Distel, a story about a true crime that took place in Ontonagon.

### The Book Worm

A fast-paced whodunit, it was a book that I simply could not put down.

About 10 years ago, the Village of Ontonagon was stunned by the tragic death of a young mother in what appeared to be a hunting accident near the end of deer season.

A few months later came the even more shocking revelation that it had not been an accident at all.

The story began as the deer season was winding down in 1992. The date was Nov. 29, a Sunday. It was the end of the Thanksgiving weekend and the last "big" day of deer season.

Judy Blake Moilanen decided not to hunt that day, instead taking an afternoon walk in the woods behind her parents' house with five Springer spaniels. The dogs returned, but she didn't. A bullet had taken her life.

It was immediately considered to be a hunting accident. Indeed, that was how it was reported in the area media. That was the only thing that made sense, given the circumstances.

Detective Sgt. Bob Ball of the Michigan State Police had to be convinced. And Bob Ball was not easily convinced. He wondered aloud about the whereabouts of Judy's husband Bruce.

Ball and colleagues from the Michigan State Police and Ontonagon County Sheriff's Department launched an investi-

gation that all conceded would probably conclude with confirmation that it had indeed been an accident.

When a bizarre letter was found packed in a box of Judy's sweaters, the focus and intensity of the investigation changed.

Judy's husband, Bruce, was now the focal point. Thus began months of harrowing trauma for family and friends, who were asked not only to harbor, but also embrace a man strongly suspected of being the murderer.

Investigators journeyed from the woods and into the offices of Upper Peninsula banks and insurance companies and through the halls of Marquette General Hospital, where the Moilanens had worked.

It would take months of diligent investigation and dogged pursuit before an arrest could be made.

All the while, the prime suspect was on the loose.

The State of Michigan vs. Moilanen finally went to trial in spite of the flimsiness of the evidence, matching 26-year-old prosecuting attorney Beth Paczesny against the colorful and controversial Tom Casselman, voted by his peers as the Upper Peninsula's best defense attorney.

The trial was played out in a succession of bitter exchanges and conducted under the cloud of death threats.

Was this, indeed, a hunting accident or a homicide? If you don't remember the verdict, read the book. On the other hand, read the book anyhow.

And, when you're finished with "The Sweater Letter," you

may want to check out "Population 485."

Author

Michael Perry returned to his hometown of New Auburn, Wis., after 12 years, armed with a nursing degree and a pickup truck full of life experiences. He

offers readers the truth about moving back to small-town America in this funny, poignant, and often mesmerizing collection of essays.

Perry returns to New Auburn and joins the volunteer fire department. His mother and brothers are already members, and Perry's own emergency medical training and nursing experience makes him a good fit.

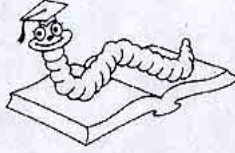
As he answers one call after another — accidents, fires, even suicides — he finds himself reconnecting with his roots and establishing his place in the community.

Each chapter details some of the emergencies to which Perry responds, and describes how, over time, he becomes more and more enmeshed in the life of the town. A car full of people rams into the

local laundromat; an elderly man, full of cancer, takes his own life to spare his wife; a teenager in a stolen car pays the ultimate price for youthful foolishness; barn fires, grass fires, house fires all play a part in helping Perry reestablish his ties. Along the way, Perry clues us in on his background in EMT work, as well as the history of New Auburn.

His descriptions of minor characters are razor sharp: "My Uncle Shotsy was a UPS driver. He used to tell me that you could take any corner at exactly twice its posted speed. The second time he rolled his big brown van, UPS let him go. I still think of him every time I see a yellow curve sign and do the math. Uncle Shotsy was a victim of optimistic physics."

The book ends on a tragic, yet hopeful note, involving the death of someone close to Perry. In a few deft pages, he underscores the fragility and uncertainty of life. It's in this final chapter, with its lightning quick shift from joy to pain, that Perry demonstrates to readers how rooted he has become. His hometown and family are once more his rock solid foundation.



The Ironwood Times was a weekly newspaper back in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was published every Saturday. Here are some items from the column "TOLD IN A FEW LINES" from the month of October 1920.

A nice line of brass and bronze novelties at C. M. Beans Quality Jeweler.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Treloar, out of Chicago, attended the Treloar – Bowden wedding here Thursday.

6 room house for sale. Inquire No. 363 Ashland location near Scott and Howe lumber company's mill.

Miss Tilley Erickson will leave Saturday to resume her studies at the Marquette Normal school.

House for sale -- -- 705 East Tamarack Street. Inquire on premises.

Mrs. P. J. McMillan gave a miscellaneous shower at her home on Mansfield Street Wednesday evening for Miss Cecelia McMillan.

Wanted – Cook and waitress. Good wages. Apply in Ironton boardinghouse, Ironton mine.

Mrs. Arthur Thomas entertained Thursday afternoon at her home on North Currie Street. Lunch was served at 4:30 o'clock. The guests were Mrs. George Jacobson Jr., Mrs. George Jacobson Sr., Mrs. Albert Olson, Mrs. P. Smith, Mrs. Otto Johnson, and Mrs. Thomas Clemens. The ladies brought their knitting.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Pierce left last evening for Milwaukee where they will visit for a few days after which they will go to Lynn Haven, Florida where they will spend the winter. We know that our old friend W. L. doesn't like the idea of leaving Ironwood but he finds the winter climate of this country a little severe in his advancing years. But we will all be looking for his return home next Memorial Day and are certain that he will be pleased to come back.

Miss Lara Bowdon of this city and Mr. William J. Treloar of Ishpeming were married Thursday afternoon at five o'clock, the ceremony taking place at the home of Mrs. Gunder Lee, Mabel Street, Rev. Collister of the Jessievile M.E. Church officiating. The attendants were Mr. and Mrs. James Chinn and Mr. and Mrs. George Treloar. As the wedding party entered the parlor where the ceremony occurred, Lohengrin's wedding march was played by Prof. M. Holemo on the violin accompanied by Miss Sigrid Holemo at the piano. The bride was gowned in white crepe de chine and carried a bouquet of pink roses. Mrs. Treloar wore white voile and carried pink carnations and Mrs. Chinn wore blue voile and carried a similar bouquet. Following the ceremony a wedding supper was served at the home of Mrs. Lee to 50 guests. The home was beautifully decorated with smilax and ferns. Mr. and Mrs. Treloar will be the making their home at Ishpeming. The Times joins with the host of Ironwood friends of the bride in the in extending congratulations.

# SCHOOL BOOKS

WE carry the most complete stock of School Books in the city. Also the largest assortment of

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**THE REMEMBER WHEN? TRIVIA CONTEST: DO YOU REMEMBER BIG LITTLE BOOKS?**

No one was able to guess the answers to Eddie's trivia contest. The question was "Do you know the horses' names of the cowboys listed below?" The winner would have received a free 1 year renewal of your membership.

Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Hopalong Cassidy, Red Ryder, Ken Maynard, Tim McCoy, Tom Mix, Buck Jones, Tim Tyler, Tim Holt ( Tim had 4 horses, give us the name of one).

The answers are: **Roy Rogers-"Trigger" his dog was "Bullet"**

**Gene Autry-"Champion"**

**Hopalong Cassidy- Topper**

**Red Ryder- Thunder**

**Ken Maynard-Tarzan**

**Tim McCoy-Red Dawn**

**Tom Mix- "Tony"**

**Buck Jones- Silver, also known as Silver Buck**

**Tim Tyler-Ginger**

**Tim Holt- pre WWII Duke**

**- post WW II Sheik, Lightning, and Sun Dance.**

If you have a suggestion for "Remember When", send Joe an email at [grampa@thecarlsonclan.com](mailto:grampa@thecarlsonclan.com). We'll put it in our next issue!

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?**

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

At the annual meeting on Saturday, September 20, 2003, Gary Harrington presented some of his research to us including pension records of his great-great grandfather's Civil War history. I talked about some of the skeletons in my ancestral closet.

Locating old ancestral records, whether positive or negative, is a reward! The Internet is a valuable source of information, as is the National Archives.



**Our Officers are**

**Gary Harrington, President**  
**Diane Egan, Vice President**  
**Pam Bretall, Secretary**  
**Eddie Sandene, Treasurer**  
**Carol Schleker, Membership**  
**Dwight Filippini, Cemeteries**  
**Tim Egan, Librarian**

**Our meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 10 am to noon**  
**Everyone is invited to attend.**