



The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter

The Gogebic Roots Quarterly Newsletter April 2007 In This Issue



**NEWS FROM THE
TWENTIES**

**MEMORIES OF
GROWING UP AS A
FARM KID**

RESEARCH TIPS

**GRGS PIONEER
FAMILIES**

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.

Our Officers are

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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.

According to an article published in the IDG on Feb. 28, 1923, relying on information from Lansing, Michigan, the state of Michigan had the largest Finnish community in the U.S. 13% of the residents in Upper Peninsula mining districts were from Finland. Eastern U.P. counties reportedly had large percentages of residents claiming German or French ancestors. Michigan was also credited with the largest number of people of Dutch ancestry found in the communities along Lake Michigan in the Lower Peninsula. Which groups are in your family tree?

In March of 1923, Sir William Bird of England introduced a bill requiring eggs to be stamped with their birthday. Gogebic range grocers were selling whole or half hams for .15 a pound.

Good Friday was observed by the closing of some mines, city offices and schools on the Gogebic Range. However, banks and businesses remained open.

In the spring of 1924, it was reported that the stormy weather prevented the bus service from reaching Marenisco. It was able to get to the train station at Dunham; passengers took the train to Marenisco from there.

1924 is the last filing date for disability claims relating to service in WWI.

On April 12, 1924 local papers announced that there was a "DRASTIC PRICE CUT IN IRON ORE", a reduction of eighty cents.

Pasquale Fracaro of Asiago, Italy was to be returned there as he had illegally entered the U.S. via Mexico. He was residing in Erwin Township with his sister, (Antoinette) Mrs. Joseph Dalle Ave.

April 15, 1924 City health official, Dr. Louis Dorpat wanted to prevent a Typhoid epidemic in the area, he advised that the Typhoid vaccine was free to those who came in to be vaccinated.

Brookvale Dairy began pasteurizing their products in an attempt to help prevent the spread of Typhoid.

Dr. Draper announced that April 17, 1924 was the first date Gogebic County Hospital would be ready for receiving tubercular patients.

More warm weather is needed in order for route #12, between Ironwood and Watersmeet to be passable. In some places it is entirely covered with water from the melting snow. The worst section is between the Gogebic and Turtle cutoffs.

Iron County, Wisconsin is planting evergreens along the highways to build wind breaks and guard against snow drifts.

Lilac is a favorite scent but isn't as good as the ham and egg smell.

Good, wholesome, homelike meals. Light lunches at all hours. Meals .35 Mrs. Kneebone, Prop. Ironwood, Mich.

Axel Christianson purchased Bessemer's old Washington school building on North Sophie Street for \$1,500.

The city of Wakefield will purchase the Chicago Mine from the present owners to safeguard the cities fresh water supply.

Three hundred dollars was stolen when thieves entered the Pool room in the Kerkes building basement and stole the cash register. It was discarded behind Mike Lazinski's barn on Nunnemacher.

Hens that lay blue, green, pink and gold eggs? From Chile and introduced into the United States about 1928 are ARAUCANA chickens, a multi-colored breed. The eggs taste like normal eggs but don't require dye to get the pretty colors for Easter. Just remember to hard bile 'em or else everyone will really get a surprise. That's no yolk, or is it?



What are your best memories of growing up on the farm? Why, everyone owned at least one good ole' Bessie for daily milkin' and one ornery rooster to a dozen layin' hens. A few squealing pigs to dispose of garbage. And about one goose to guard the property...never mind the dogs. Stay clear of that goose. And don't step on any cow pies, Maw will make ya bathe in the river if ya fall in 'em.

Kids today complain about having to do household chores, such as loading and unloading the dishwasher. It is interesting that not that many years ago, before the dishes could be washed, chores had to be accomplished such as going to the water source, (sometimes a spring, well or pump) to fill pails up with the water, carry it home and then heating it up. It should be noted that those items resembling oxen yokes were also designed for the purpose of enabling humans to haul buckets of water for long distances. The heat was usually provided by a wood or coal stove, so that was a separate chore. Bath time wasn't much easier unless it was going to be a jump in the old swimming hole.

The garbage truck didn't pick up the trash. Families used the compost method, scrap for the animals and then had a spot in the woods where they would bury the other items, even though they didn't use terms such as "biodegradeable." Today in many back woods, one can find remnants of those refuse collections, buried underneath the leaves.

The milk man only went to the homes of the city kids. Not to mention that sometimes the roads were so bad that you had a legitimate excuse for not making it to school. But, then again, school was not going to get cancelled or delayed just because the electricity was out.

Everyone in the family had their share of work to be done before there was play time, no running off to swim, play ball or even fishing trips, without doing the chores. Cows were to be rounded up, given fresh hay, water and milking attended to every morning and evening. And those farm animals were also really good at producing MANURE, which had to be taken care of, stored somewhere out of the way until it was time to put it in the garden.

After Bella was milked and the eggs collected from the hens, it was time to eat. Biscuits and gravy, taties, eggs, that would last a farm kid for a while to give them fuel for chores. When breakfast was finished, the milk had to be skimmed by pouring it through some cheesecloth. Then decisions were made; if it would be churned into butter, buttermilk, cottage cheese, cheese or something like yogurt. As long as the stormy weather and lightning didn't turn it sour, things were good. No one liked drinking blinky milk, except maybe the pigs. It is amazing that people lived, even after drinking unpasteurized milk. A really good desert would be pouring that cream on chocolate cake.

There was hay to be cut out in the fields, allowed to air dry and then it was time to haul it to be stored up in the loft of the barn; or covered up with a tarp. Wood to be sawn and chopped up with the axe into the sizes that would fit in the stoves. Then it had to be hauled and piled in the woodshed.

Pa would till the garden. In the earlier yers, I kin remember him using the old pull behind the horse plow. Then we saved up some money and purchased a tiller that had a motor to turn the wheels, but that wasn't that good. We sold that thing after awhile.

The kids would follow behind Pa as he'd go down the garden rows and put seeds in. Then Ma would come behind and cover them up. We always planted corn, carrots, taties and beans. Some years we'd put in beets and onions. After the sprouts peeked their heads up, there was always weeding to be done. And bugs to be picked off the leafs.

The best part of the garden was when we could go out and pull up a carrot, wipe the dirt on our pants and get that sensational crunch of a fresh home grown carrot. Ma would let us have contests to see who could string up beans the fastest. We would each take a needle, then thread it with string for sewing or some old fishing line, the trick was keeping the line long enough and not let them fall off the other end of the string. Then they'd get hung up by the wood stove to dry. We made all those chores into games. Yup, even shuckin' the corn. Had to be careful not to let the cows get into leeks this time of year, make the milk taste really awful.

Always was plenty to eat, even during tough times for other folks in town. We had fish, and all those garden foods. Ma always had fresh baked white or corn bread on the table, if we wasn't having biscuits. Usually had a crock of pickled beans. Them leather britches are good cooked up with salt pork. Springtime we'd have messes of fresh dock, fiddlehead ferns or dandelion greens. Wintertime we could store venison in a homemade ice box, just dig a hole down in the ground and snow, insert a metal barrel into it and then the venison would go in it and get covered up. Some people called it a cache.

I never liked it when we butchered the farm animals; to me they were pets. The wild animals were ok for me to eat, but not my pets. It sure was good though, when we had fresh chicken, fried, heck, ma even fried up the chicken feet that was a tasty treat, didn't look too nice though. We would butcher the pigs and sometimes a steer. Our neighbor liked to catch the pig's blood to make sausage and he also liked to make headcheese. Not everyone liked to eat that stuff.

I don't know why some folks call it the good ole' days, it sure was a lot more work! If we needed to earn spending money, the folks didn't give us no darn allowance, either. Back then the hourly minimum wage, if you were lucky enough to earn it, was .75 cents. We

trapped muskrat, weasels, coyotes and foxes. It depended on the time of year, was a seasonal thing. You could make from \$2 to \$3 per hide; it all depended on the quality of the fur. Some animals had a bounty on them, you could earn the money whether the animal was dead or alive, and it depended on where you were going to take it to. The Deer Trail Inn, Riverside Inn and City of Wakefield and a few other places all ran little live animal zoos. They would purchase live animals from people for the exhibits.

Another job we would do to earn spending money was working in the woods. We could get jobs peeling pulp or skidding. One time, we were working so hard we needed to break for lunch. So we did and took care to give our skidding horse, his food and water. When we were done with our break and went to get the horse, he had died on us. Pa used to tell us that we worked him to death.

Drivers' education classes didn't come around until in the 1950's. Not all kids had to or did take driver's education. It didn't cost your family the money like it does today.

Privies were an education all to themselves. If you go to one of them campgrounds that calls itself "RUSTIC," you might experience a privy for yourself. But, you will still, most likely, be missing out on the most interesting part. People used to dig their own privy holes, move the part people call an outhouse over it. When the time came, they would just move the outhouse again. Someone would get the job of filling in the used hole....talk about dirty jobs. If the people weren't careful or didn't know what they were doing, it could get real dangerous.

But, it wasn't all work and no play. I told you we did our best to make the chores into games. Well, when chores were done...then the real fun could start. Sometimes, we'd get company. They'd come over with their musical instruments and play from evening to morning. Harmonica, concertina, fiddle, guitar. Why, even the spoons or washboard could become music in the hands of the right person.

INFORMATION ON FARMING IN THE MIDWEST

Library of Congress. *Pioneering the Upper Midwest: Books from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ca. 1820-1910*. [database on-line] Washington: Library of Congress, 1999.

Henry, William Arnon. *Northern Wisconsin, A Hand-book for the Homeseeker*. Madison, WI: Democrat Printing Co., 1896. William Henry, Northern Wisconsin, 1890 Guide for settlers of northern Wisconsin in the 1890s. Originally compiled by the College of Agriculture at the University of Wisconsin in 1896, this database is a guide for settlers to northern Wisconsin. It contains photographs and maps of the area along with charts and statistical lists concerning water resources and land availability. Additionally, it provides commentary on farming, animal breeding, and the dairy industry in the region. For researchers of early Wisconsin history and residents, this can be an informative database.

Martin's Norwegian Genealogy Dictionary contains words related to genealogy. Most of the words are not likely to appear in a common dictionary.

<http://www.geocities.com/heartland/estates/5536/eidhalist.html>

Beginner's Guide to Finnish Family History Research Origin of Saari A Tutorial on Finnish Surnames and Farm Names <http://members.aol.com/DSSaari/saarinam.htm>

Yvette's Dutch GENEALOGY http://www.dutchgenealogy.nl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=35

NARA: Nonpopulation censuses <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/nonpopulation/>

Genealogy Articles by Michael John Neill <http://www.rootdig.com/adn/adnold.html>

One great page with tons of links: <http://www.ancestorhunt.com/>

German? http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/german_surnames.htm

USE Google Earth as a genealogy research tool. Rural areas are not very detailed in the Google Earth images, but use the Overlay feature and overlay an old historical map to determine the general area where the home, farm, business, etc, is located. Then obtain detailed topographical maps of the area. You can get highly-detailed aerial photos of the farm and surrounding landscape. Google Earth then will provide a 3D interactive view. It is a fantastic tool for genealogical research. The software can be downloaded for free from <http://earth.google.com>

GOGEBIC RANGE PIONEER FAMILIES

Was your family living on the Gogebic Range before December 31, 1900? If so, we want you to join our exclusive group of Gogebic range pioneer families.

To join GR Pioneer Families:

You must be a member of the Gogebic Range Genealogical Society when your application is submitted. (Membership fee schedule is listed at the bottom of this page.)

You must provide documented proof of each generation back to the ancestor that was in the county by December 31, 1900.

A fee of \$10 is due with the application.

Each submitted and approved Gogebic Range Pioneer Family submission will receive a certificate.

Certificates will be presented to members at the annual board meeting held at the Elk and Hound.

Individual / Life \$240
Family / Life \$360
Individual / Yearly \$12
Family / Yearly \$18