

Ishpeming

**Area
Historical
Society &
Museum**

FALL 2017

Edited by
Karen Kasper

In Memorium

Kevin Bannon first visited the museum to bring us artifacts, then became a volunteer. He had recently retired from the mines. He loved to talk and as a long time resident of Ishpeming, knew the history of our city. Many hours were spent at the museum and last fall Kevin became a trustee.

On September 6, 2017, Kevin passed away at St. Mary's Hospital—Mayo Clinic while waiting for a lung transplant. He will be greatly missed by everyone at the museum.

We urge all of our members to consider becoming part of the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. The museum has more information on this.

Spring Schedule

The museum will be closed from November through March and in April and May, open on Monday's again, with our summer schedule to be decided next spring, depending upon the availability of our volunteers. As always, we are open by appointment at any time of the year.

Helping the Society

The best thing you can do to help the Ishpeming Area Historical Society with its mission of preserving the history of the city of Ishpeming is to become a member and to renew your membership each year. Memberships are for the calendar year, from January to December and cost just \$10 per person. Members receive the newsletter mailed to them twice a year.

The society is always looking for volunteers for events and to keep the museum open. We provide training. If you can't commit to the museum on a weekly basis, we could also use a couple of substitutes for when one of our regulars can't make it. We could also use someone to organize our artifacts, and enter them into our software program. Training will be provided for this job.

We are looking for a secretary for our board. Our current secretary, Elizabeth Firby, will move to the treasurer's position. The secretary will be required to attend our meetings and take minutes, as well as other duties.

Ishpeming Area Historical Society Board

President— David Aeh

Vice President— Nancy DeCaire

Secretary— Elizabeth Firby

Treasurer— Sandee Smetana

Trustees—Connie Pepin, Karen Kasper and Jodi Firby.

Pioneer Night

On Tuesday, April 3, 1923, the local Lion's Club celebrated Pioneer Night in the Guild Hall of the Grace Episcopal church. The ladies were in attendance and a turkey supper was served. Three early pioneer residents were present and gave accounts of life in Ishpeming in the early days.

Charles L. Anderson was a resident since 1866 and told of his experiences.

"I first saw Ishpeming in the spring of 1866, coming from Eagle Harbor to Marquette by boat, there being no railroads.

The only railroad, except the Northwestern, was the Marquette, Houghton and Bay Denocque and that only ran as far as Humboldt. The Northwestern had just been finished to the New York Mine, but there was no road between Escanaba (Sand Point) and Menominee, so they staged it over this distance in the winter and by boars in the summer. The Marquette, Houghton & Bay Denocque was a narrow gauge road. The passenger cars were something like the present box cars, with doors on the side for entering, and the seats were benches set lengthwise in the cars. Windows were on the sides and set up so high that there was no danger of the children falling out. When the snow got to be too much for the snow plow, service was suspended and the locomotives were put in the roundhouse for the winter. Then all traffic was done by stage and dogs.

The stores generally got in their winter's stock before the freeze-up and that meant a large stock of goods, hay and feed for the stock as there was none raised to speak of at that time. The Cleveland store, owned and run by Wright and Outhwaite, was the largest this side of Marquette, at that time, and was a very reliable store, where you could be sure of getting anything, even to hoop skirts.

When the new goods came in there was generally an eagerness on the part of the ladies to see the new patterns in calicos and gingham, which were worn by most women.

We used to get some women's hats, but they did not seem to be so particular about styles as they are now. The 'shaker bonnet' was worn pretty generally and in the winter the women wore knitted hoods in bright colors and knitted wood scarfs. Dresses were longer, and there were no silk stockings. They were wool and modest in color. Men generally wore mackinaw coats with hoods which they pulled over the head. The yellow, oil-tanned cowhide shoe-pack and German socks were worn a great deal by men and boys in the winter. The children's shoes were generally 'copper toed,'

I well remember having seen the thermometer 52 below zero and fences out of sight, but can't remember of anyone being frozen to death.

The majority of the people had to depend on the cook stove for heating and cooking and their fuel was what they would go out and cut, generally green hardwood which they cut up and dried in the oven of the cook stove. But the people did not seem to complain. Wood was the only fuel.

The only school here at that time was the one story frame building near the Hard Ore office at the Cleveland mine. This had two rooms and took care of all the children from the several locations. My friend, John Welsh, was one of the star scholars—always at the head of the spelling class.

At the time we came to the Cleveland mine there was only one steam plant, and that was a small upright boiler with a donkey pump that was used to pump water from an open pit where they were getting out ore and I think Thomas Nelson was chief engineer. The mining was principally from the open pit, where they would back a horse and cart down to the

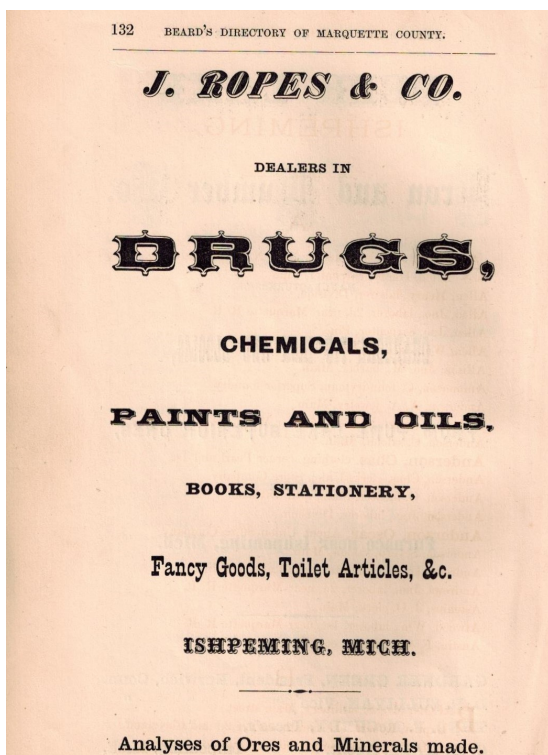
ore and haul it to a dock near the railway track and dump it into an ore car with four wheels, holding about seven tons. As the pits grew in size and deeper they constructed whims, drawn by one or two horses, with ropes leading to a derrick placed on the edge of the pit and a boom to swing the bucket from over the pit as it was hoisted to the cart and dumped.

Later they built engine houses and installed hoisting machinery to take the place of the horse and whim.

Negaunee was quite a town at this time so there was considerable traffic between the two places.

While employed as clerk at the Cleveland store for Wright and Outhwaite I first saw Robert Nelson, he having come from Cleveland, O. He said he was going to start a store at the 'Burt,' which he did in the building now used as the laboratory at the Lake Superior mine. It was soon after this that he secured the surface rights to the 'Swamp,' as we called it, and laid out our city.

In his store was established the post office and drug store, but later a building was put up near the track to serve as a depot as well as post office and drug store and here is where Mr. Ropes was the postmaster and George Sheldon, a brother of Charles Sheldon, who once had a shoe store, sold railway tickets. The Cleveland store was built across the railway track from the Cleveland school house. In this building were housed the Cleveland Iron company's offices, post office and general store and depot. In those days when flour sold for from \$10 to \$12 a barrel and kerosene oil at 50 cents a gallon, and we ate salt pork and corned beef with perhaps fresh beef once a week, unless we had a cow to kill, because we did not want to feed it over the winter, the miners were getting \$1.50 per day for 10 hours work and were contented, health and happy."



WWI Thank you

We would like to thank everyone who made our WWI focus a success this summer.

Marcus Willey, Jr. loaned us pictures of his father, who fought in WWI.

The following people were presenters at our Cemetery Tour this summer: Randi Holmgren, Cheryl Rognerud, Karalyn Johnson, Barry Johnson, Helen Korpi, Brin Smith, Ray Leverton and Janice Neumann.

The display that Cheryl Rognerud created will remain in our museum through next spring. It has the Gold Star men listed with a bit of information about each one.

1888 City Charter

City charters tend to be rather dry, with obscure legal terms and are generally not light reading. In addition, the 1888 Charter of the City of Ishpeming has a generous helping of archaic words and phrases. Yet for all the difficulty in reading, the charter gives an interesting look at life in the city of Ishpeming during 1888.

The charter defined the city government. In 1888, the city had four wards. The government consisted of a Common Council with 2 aldermen for each ward (It would eventually swell to 10 wards for a total of 20 aldermen) plus a mayor and numerous clerks and assistants.

Once the size and shape of the common council was set fourth, the charter then began listing the duties of said council. One of them was "To prevent and punish violations of the Sabbath day and the disturbance of any religious meeting, congregation or society, or public meeting assembled for any lawful purpose, and to require all places of business to be closed on the Sabbath day."

There were 40 other duties specifically laid out by the charter including "To apprehend and punish vagrants, drunkards, disorderly persons and common prostitutes" and "To regulate or prohibit or suppress billiard tables, nine or ten-pin alleys or tables and ball alleys and to punish the keepers thereof." Gaming was prohibited as was "horse-racing, and immoderate riding or driving in any street." "Ale, beer and porter houses, and all places of resort for tippling and intemperance" were highly regulated as were "auctioneers, hawkers, peddlers and pawnbrokers." Of course, the aldermen of the common council did not do everything by themselves, as they had the power "to appoint so many police constables, night watchmen, inspectors of fire wards, sealers of weights and measures and such other officers as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers herein granted."

The Common Council licensed and regulated "all vehicles of every kind used for transportation of persons or property for hire in the city," and "toll bridges within the city and to prescribe the rates and charges for passage over the same." They inspected "meats, poultry, fish, butter, cheese, lard, vegetables, flour and other provisions" and also "brick, lumber, firewood, coal, hay and any article of merchandise." The latter items were also weighed and measured.

Chapter 11 of the city charter spelled out the size of the fire department as well as the duties of the fire department and how it was organized. The charter even stated "Upon the breaking out of any fire in said city, the marshal shall immediately repair to the place of such fire and aid and assist, as well in extinguishing the fire as in preventing any goods or property from being stolen or injured." But "the marshal shall be in all respects obedient to the mayor, aldermen, fire wardens or either of them, or such of them as may be present at such fire."

Bystanders at the fire risked being called upon to assist: "Whenever any person shall refuse to obey any lawful order from any engineer, fire warden, mayor or alderman at any fire, it shall be lawful for the officer giving such order to arrest or to direct orally, any constable, watchman or any citizen to arrest such person." However, there were a few benefits to being part of the fire company as they were exempt from "serving on juries and paying a poll tax in said city."

Another chapter dealt with public health and the appointment of a board of health. That board was tasked with "to take such measures as they shall deem effectual to prevent the entrance of any pestilential or infectious disease into the city;" "to establish, maintain and regulate and pest house or hospital at some place within the city;" and "to cause any resident of the city infected with any such disease to be removed to such pest house or hospital."

The city started putting in water lines as early as 1882, so part of the city charter dealt with the appointment of "water commissioners," with the "power to make and adopt all such by-laws, rules and regulations as may be necessary or expedient for the conduct of its business

and that of the executive member of the board, not inconsistent with this act." The board as a whole had the "power to construct, repair and maintain reservoirs, buildings, machinery, jets and fountains, at such locations in said city or without said city as the common council shall deem expedient and direct, and to lay and repair water mains and pipes in and through all the streets, alleys and public places in said city for the purpose of furnishing a full supply of water for public and private uses in said city."

Other sections of the charter provided for public improvements and the whys and wherefores of paying for such improvements; taxation, taxes and the collection thereof; compensation of officers and cemeteries.

An Interesting trip

From the Mining Journal, February 15, 1943 comes this article;

Three members of the Ishpeming high school faculty and four members of the basketball team reached home this noon after being storm-bound in Munising since Saturday on their return from the Soo, where Ishpeming played Friday night.

Four other members of the squad rode home on a train from Shingleton Saturday afternoon.

Claude Farrell, taking four players, left the Soo earlier than the other car Saturday morning and managed to get into Munising without difficulty.

Supt. Ogden E. Johnson and Coach C.C. Watson, coming after him, got as far as Shingleton. Learning that a train was leaving there in 20 minutes, they put the four boys on the train, and then fought their way into Munising, being stalled once or twice before reaching the Alger county city. The four who came home on the train, reaching here at 10 Saturday night were Bergman, LeClair, Marra and Ayotte.

The storm was increasing as the second car reached Munising and Farrell had previously learned roads out of that city were blocked. Parents of the boys with Farrell were notified that they would not leave Munising until it was absolutely certain roads were open. In this group were Lemin, Gray, Alanko and Wiinikainen Alger county dug itself out of snowdrifts this morning and the party came home without mishap.

(Editor's Note: The members of the 1943 Basketball team were as follows: Richard Bergman, Anthony Marra, Stanley Wiinikainen, William Gray, Keith LeClaire, Douglas Erickson, Glenn Rosendale, Paul Lemin, Gustie Alanko & Clarence Ayotte. According to the 1943 annual, the team lost, 36-24.)

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting was held on October 5, 2017. At the meeting we changed our By-Laws and elected the following officers: David Aeh, President; Nancy DeCaire, Vice President; Elizabeth Firby, Secretary; Sandy Smetana, Treasurer and Karen Kasper, Jodi Firby and Connie Pepin as our Trustees.

100 Years ago—September & October of 1917

Jones & Laughlin

Mr. C.T. Kruse, Michigan manager for the mines of the Jones & Laughlin Ore company, has changed his offices from the old Lake Angeline mine location to the Jenks block, corner of Main and Bank streets, up-stairs. Here there is plenty of room with good light and ventilation.
Iron Ore, October 20, 1917

Our New Flag Pole

The city of Ishpeming erected a fine steel flag pole Tuesday. It is 75 feet high, a slim, graceful staff and it bears a new flag, just the thing for these times of war.

It is fitting that the flag pole for Ishpeming be of steel as that is representative of our local industry. It is placed in the plot of ground owned by the city and on the Main and Canda streets, and immediately across the street from the Nelson house. There was no ceremony in connection with its raising.

Iron Ore, October 13, 1917

A Torpedo Deflector

H.J. Sjolander, of Ishpeming, who set the war department a drawing for a torpedo deflector several weeks ago, has heard from the department to the effect that there was filed simultaneously with his drawing another of nearly similar kind, but that his is the better in that chains are used in a certain place instead of rods. He is led to believe that his device is considered practical and it will be employed with good results against the enemy. There is a suspicion that some of the American ships are already protected with the Sjolander torpedo turning invention.

Iron Ore, October 13, 1917

Ishpeming Alumni Won from Negaunee

The Ishpeming Alumni football team trimmed the Negaunee City team 14 to 0, Sunday. The Negaunee team was heavier, but it lacked the practice, it having done little in getting its men into the game so far this season. Later they will do better, maybe. Ishpeming showed better form, and was faster. "Batch" Urquhart was the boy of the Ishpeming team who commanded most attention from the audience, he making the two touchdowns the team secured. The team work made this easy for him, however, and good teamwork is what really counts in all these sports.

Iron Ore, September 29, 1917

Style Shop Makes Improvements

D.C. Raphael, proprietor of the Style Shop, has received new fixtures for his store, on Main street, which will be installed early next week. They consist of a set of revolving cabinets which will contain his goods. The store-room will be widened three feet making a frontage of thirty-five feet and allowing space for two dressing rooms at the rear. The Style Shop has a name for quality, and in its new settings will one of the finest stores of its kind in this section.

Iron Ore, September 1, 1917

Become a member

Ishpeming Area Historical Society

The Ishpeming Area Historical Society is a 501(c)3 Michigan Non-Profit Organization
Our mission is to promote and encourage a better appreciation for and a sustained interest
in the history of the Ishpeming area. Your membership allows us to carry out this mission.

Yearly membership (Renewable January 1st)

\$5 Student (high school-College)

\$10 Individual

\$20 Family (One household)

\$25 Non Profit Business

\$35 Business

\$200 Lifetime Individual or Family, \$250 Lifetime Business

Additional donation _____

Name _____ Date _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

In memory/honor of (if applicable) _____

I do NOT wish my name to be used in any publicity or on a membership plaque.

Is this a New Membership Renewal Membership

Is this address my/our year round address? If not, what months do I/we reside here?

(We send out newsletters in the spring and fall.)

Mail completed form and payment to:

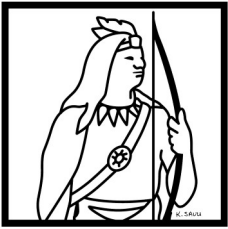
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