

**The Negaunee Historical Society
303 East Main Street (P.O. Box 221)
Negaunee, MI 49866 (906-475-4614)
DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Roland Koski (negauneehistorical@att.net)

FROM THE PRESIDENT, Virginia Paulson



Visitors to the museum often ask, "What does the name Negaunee mean?" To my knowledge, it means "Pioneer" or to lead, to go forth. But, I found this article, written by W. H. Treloar in 1977, which I found very interesting....

"Over the years, the meaning of Negaunee has been referred to as "hell" while Ishpeming has had the reputation of being heaven. The Indian language probably does mean Ishpeming as high and Negaunee as low meaning the elevation between the two towns from the level of Teal Lake up the hill to Ishpeming. The high and low was loosely interpreted, with tongue in cheek, as heaven and hell. The fact is Negaunee has made a meaningful contribution to the economy of the county. It was here that iron ore was discovered. Its landscape, over the years, has been dotted with the shaft house of a dozen mines. Its old Jackson is still the focal point for historians of the mining industry. It has given the county leadership. From its citizens, have come great scholars, legal leadership and political giants. Its schools have always been good and it is a city of churches and homes. It has always been a friendly community." W. H. Treloar

Negaunee, a town of riches.....from its earth to its people



and a blessed New Year from the Negaunee Historical Society

VIRGINIA PAULSON

The Negaunee Historical Society expresses their sympathy to the families and friends of Barbara Lehtonen who passed away in November. Barbara was born and raised in Negaunee on Tobin St. but was a resident of Clinton Township, Michigan. She enjoyed returning to Negaunee each summer. Barbara was a lifetime member of Negaunee Historical Society and enjoyed giving back to her community. We express our gratitude to Barbara for the contribution she made to the Society to replace the footings to begin the work on the back porch.

IN MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS

(Deaths reported to the Society since our December 2015 newsletter)



Dorothy Humphrey – 28AUG2008

Leo Seeley, Jr – 28JUL2014

William Thompson – 24NOV2015

Allan Dighera – 6DEC2015

Paul St. John – 27DEC2015

Jacob Holappa – 1JAN2016

Barbara Roos Bancroft – 22JAN2016

Mildred Mattson Ropponen – 29JAN2016

Mary Trolla – 5FEB2016

Kathleen Northey Giddings – 29FEB2016

Elsie Kantola – 6MAR2016

Rev. Rudolph Kemppainen – 27MAR2016

Paul Symons - 27AUG2016

Barbara Lehtonen – 12NOV2016

HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM FIRE – 25 YEARS LATER

“Part of Local History Goes Up in Flames”

Saturday, December 21, 1991 was a fiery scene with our museum going up in smoke – almost anyway. During the Christmas holiday evening, an arsonist set the fire in the rear of the building which destroyed several artifacts and caused a strong odor of smoke throughout the two floors of the museum. Board president at that time, Phyllis Pascoe and board member, James Paquette were among the bystanders watching the blazing fire for over two hours. Many artifacts and complete displays were destroyed. However, a display showing the Breitung Hotel – destroyed by fire in 1988 – was spared even though the display case stood just feet away from the kitchen display.



Pascoe stated *“I could not believe anything like this could happen. I was just in here Friday afternoon and everything was perfect. Mannequins wearing old uniforms, dresses and wedding attire were covered with soot. Although dirty, they could be cleaned up.”*

Paquette stated *“the most tragic outcome is the loss of Negaunee’s heritage. A lot of this was mementos of families and family heirlooms. This is a personal museum.”*

THREE NEGAUNEE ALUMNI STILL INVOLVED IN SPORTS

Three more former NHS athletes continue to pursue their dreams and passion in the sporting world and have been very successful at it. More than 30 years ago, Mike Gleason, Keith Langlois and Mark Ayotte were attending school and were active in sports, especially on the Miners basketball teams. Each of them went in different directions to fulfill their desires. I know there have been many more Negaunee alumni that have had successful careers but I can only write about these gentlemen for this newsletter. The first two played on my fast pitch softball teams back in the early 70's while Mark's brother, Steve (Class of 1974) became my MHSAA referee partner in the late 70's for several years. So, this is my recognition of their accomplishments over the years.



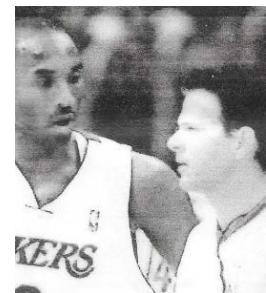
A member of the Class of 1973, Mike Gleason has become an ESPN sports broadcaster. Excelling in both basketball and football, Mike played football for a season at Central Michigan before transferring to NMU where he earned college credits doing play-by-play for Northern football. Studying to be a history teacher and football coach, his brief stint in the broadcast booth convinced him to change his major. Following his schooling at NMU, Mike worked at television stations in Michigan, in California and in Ohio before joining ESPN in Charlotte, N.C.



A member of the Class of 1974, Keith Langlois is now a full-time sports columnist for the Oakland Press. Keith graduated from NMU in 1978 and began his career writing for the Escanaba Daily Press and then for the Oakland Press in 1984 where he became full time in 1996. The award winning columnist saw changes in the newspaper industry as professional sports teams began using its Web sites. In 2006, Keith began a career as an official blogger of the Detroit Pistons.



A member of the Class of 1982, Mark Ayotte has become an NBA basketball official. Participating in both basketball and football, Mark had an interesting journey to the hard court. He earned a computer science degree at MSU and then moved to Arizona. Due to a shortage of officials in the area, Mark decided to earn a few extra dollars doing junior high and club team games. This start led him to pursue his part-time enjoyment becoming a PAC-10 Conference official in 1993 and later advancing to the WNBA. Mark's dream became a reality in 2004 when he began his career as an NBA official.



Alongside Kobe Bryant

CHRISTMAS TEA AT MUSEUM

"The tea was hot and the cookies delicious...the models were beautiful!"



A Christmas Tea program was held at the museum on Sunday afternoon December 4th featuring different styles of bridal gowns ranging from 1916 2016. This event was attended by approximately 40 area residents who were served tea, sandwiches, cookies, and bars while watching 14 volunteer young ladies make their presentations in their wedding attire. The event was hosted by Suzanne Morris and her friends. Those attending commented that the "the tea was

hot and the cookies delicious...the models were beautiful!" Thank you to all who attended and a huge thank you to all who helped make the Christmas Tea a wonderful event! The models were Alea Beckman, Karen Coron, Cece Johnson, Rene Johnson, Susan MacGregor, Paula McCormick, Yvonne Nurmi, Paula Patszke, Grace Louise Phillips, Shelby Prusi, Talon Prusi, and Amy Stanaway. The train carriers were Henna DuMoulin and Adeleigh Riutta.



TINO'S BAR AND PIZZA FEATURED ON TRAVEL CHANNEL PROGRAM

Tino's Bar and Pizza in Negaunee is known throughout Marquette County for its original pizza and cudighi, but its reputation is about to stretch far beyond the county. Tino's is a culinary destination for many former Yoopers visiting the area. This popularity may be one of the main reasons Tino's was one of several Upper Peninsula restaurants that were featured in the Travel Channel's series, "Bizarre Foods: Delicious Destinations." Tino's co-owner Jason Argall said the crew seemed most interested in one of Tino's signature favorites, the cudighi sandwich. "It's a longstanding family recipe. People come back year after year after year to get the cudighi," Argall said. Cudighi sausage is made from pork with seasonings such as salt, pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice. It roots in Italy, but has become a regional favorite in Marquette County. Argall said the recipe for Tino's cudighi was developed 34 years ago. "It was created along with the recipe for the pizza sauce and pizza crust and all of it is homemade." Argall said being featured on a national television show is exciting. "We kind of felt privileged that they chose us to feature."



GIFTS, DONATIONS AND TIME

(Since our September newsletter)

- Sandra Pelto- monetary gift
- Betty Lukkarinen- monetary gift
- Melanie Woodworth- monetary gift
- Aileen Johnson family- monetary gifts
- Cemetery tour visitors- monetary gifts
- Christmas Tea visitors – monetary donations
- Christy Ham, Grand Rapids, MI- monetary gift
- Joyce Queen, Chesterland, OH- monetary gift
- Preston Koski- mowing the museum lawn this year
- All members – for their time and dedication preserving history

2017 GOVERNING BOARD REMAINS UNCHANGED

The Historical Society held its 32nd annual meeting on Tuesday, December 6th in the Fellowship Hall at the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Laura Jandron, Paul Jandron, Miles Parkkonen and Linda Perucco were re-elected to three-year terms as trustees. After the annual meeting, the governing board elected its officers for the coming year and the following members were reelected.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Virginia Paulson.....President | Suzanne Morris..... Vice-President |
| Donna Gravedoni-Bjork.....Secretary | Roland Koski..... Treasurer |

CYR’S CRIBBAGE BOARD 100 YEARS OLD



Joseph Cyr was born in 1879 in Montreal, Canada and came to Negaunee in 1902. He was self-employed as a blacksmith and when the horseless carriage gave way to the automobile he was employed by the City of Negaunee. Joe was one of the oldest members of the Negaunee Volunteer Fire

Department. He was best remembered as playing the role of Santa for hundreds of children. Joe was a daily visitor to the Negaunee Fire Hall and enjoyed playing a game of cribbage with Ken Paulson, fire truck operator. Caleb and Cody Scanlon, grandsons of Ken Paulson, are shown playing a game of cribbage on the 100-year old cribbage board made by Joe Cyr in 1916. Joe (84) died on September 6, 1963.

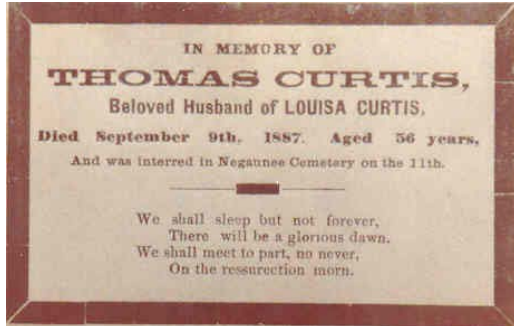


**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



CORNISH MINER IN FATAL MINING ACCIDENT

“Thomas Curtis was killed by a blast at the Cambria Mine Friday evening, September 9, 1887 at the age of 56. He attempted to light the fuse and under the impression that he had not done so returned to the hold just as the explosion took place.”



A Cornish miner, Thomas Curtis, came to Negaunee at a time when ore production and population were entering a boom period. After 1880, open-pit mining decreased substantially. Because of diamond drilling in 1887, massive ore bodies were discovered underground and shaft-mining brought great changes to the industry and caused the miner to considerably alter his methods of work. The mining companies also had to devise means whereby the ore bodies could be

accurately located and identified underground. Because new expertise was needed for this type of mining, Thomas Curtis had the experience, knowledge and willingness to work underground.

Negaunee seemed to hold out the prospect of quite a nice life for the Curtis family when they arrived in 1887 by ship to New York and then by rail to Negaunee in 1887. Thomas was employed at the Cambria Mine, which was located not too far from where his family lived at 725 Snow Street. Most houses were composed of wood because of the abundance and cheapness of the timber in the Upper Peninsula. The roofs were usually steeply pitched, too, because of the heavy snowfall. There was much rough furniture as even boxes were used for tables and chairs. Shelter took a larger part of the miner's pay check, but the mining companies often would provide housing and medical care for their employees.



But working the mines was very hard and physical. The hours were long and the mining captains demanding. All jobs in Negaunee seemed to require long hours. The miner was known for his dirty face and hands. His mining clothes and boots were normally torn and shabby. The miners had to work in pairs. In single-jacking, one man held the drill while another man struck the drill with a sledge hammer. Double-jacking was when two men struck and one held. After 1888, compressors were used for this work. Thomas, though, was never able to take advantage of a compressor in his work because ten weeks after his arrival, on September 9, 1887, he was killed, at age fifty-six, in the Cambria Mine. He was carried out of the mine by the father of a Curtis family relation by marriage.





**UPPER PENINSULA 1964
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS**

Midwest United Life Insurance Company
(MULIC)

Front L-R – Ralph LaPlante, Alan Sivula, Al Bjork, Allan Chapman, Jack Johnson, Don Price

Back L-R – Unknown Batboy, Les Melka, Dick Trehwella, Jim Maino, Dick Parkkonen, Tom Lequia, Dave Harju



**CLASS 'B' 1957 STATE
BASKETBALL CHAMPS**

Kneeling – Doug Niemi, Jack Fredrickson, Bill Hyry, Joe Lucci, Paul Jandron, Dan Maki, Peter Paine

Middle Row- Bob Manske, Dom Ghiardi, Bill Kokko, Don Larson, Russ Jacka, Bill Bond, Dick Ellis, Coach Jack Taylor, Keith Gagnon

Back Row – Lodie Morris, Tommy Anderson, Wayne Jarvi, Martin Isaacson and Rodney Bessolo



**CLASS 'D' 1968 DISTRICT
FAST PITCH CHAMPIONS**

Kneeling – Ron Champion, Terry Koski, John Argall, Paul Maino, Batboy-Bushy Nelson, Tom Borlace, Nick Lakari and Bob Jandron

Back Row- Joe Maino, Alan Sivula, Dennis Champion, Roland Koski, Rodney Guizzetti, Daryl Champion and Roger Carlson



Civil War

GRAVES OF 30 CIVIL WAR VETERANS LOCATED

(Excerpts taken from 21MAY1966 "Mining Journal" article)

Do you remember the name of Nicholas "Nick" Ilnicky, a former history teacher at Negaunee High School? Fifty (50) years ago, Nick volunteered a lot of his time in locating the 30 Civil War veterans buried in Marquette County including 26 buried in the Negaunee cemetery. For all of his hard work, Nick was presented an **Award of Commendation** from the Michigan Civil War Centennial Observation Commission. Nick sent out survey letters to 19 township supervisors in the county and as a result 2 other graves were found in Marquette as well as 2 in Northland located in the southern part of the county.

Ilnicky gave praise to another former teacher in Negaunee, Richard Heideman and his wife for the excellent work their committee performed with the project. He stated, *"Without their wonderful cooperation and efficient planning, this project would not have been a success."*

CIVIL WAR VETERANS (Grand Army of the Republic) buried in the Negaunee Cemetery

*Edward C Anthony
Thomas Bashaw
Samuel Carey
James Cavanaugh
John Fish
James Gray
Martin Heiser
Felix Houle*

*Dennis LaFortune
Augustus MacKenzie
Donald McDonald
Patrick McGrane
Archibald McIntyre
James McNeil
Henry Mooney
James O'Brien*

*Edward Ranco
Joseph Richardson
Frank Sauer
Andrew Seass
Emerson Slough
Samuel Steele
Peter Trudell, Sr
Arthur Wilson*

*Benjamin Wood
James Wood*



If anyone is interested in learning more about our Civil War veterans, there is a copy of the biographies of each of the above veterans. This historical book was published by Alan Nelson, and he kindly donated a copy to our museum.

TURKEYS LOOKING FOR ROOM TO RENT

Doug Dushane - *"Evidently, they tried gobbler talk but got no response".*

Turkeys have been doing their "turkey-trot" in downtown Negaunee over the past month or so. With many curious on-lookers feeding them with a little seed and whatever, the turkeys have fallen in love with our city. Word has been going around that they are looking for a room to rent. Monday afternoon the trio made a visit to Barbara Perala who is a resident of Valley View Apartments on Rail Street. Her brother, Doug Dushane, took these pictures of the turkeys checking out the "For Rent" sign and stated *"Evidently, they tried gobbler talk but got no response".*



ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - DECEMBER 1 286
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS - 181 2016 MEMBERSHIPS - 105

Did you forget to renew your membership this year?
 The museum displays are being continually updated and improved for our visitors. Thank you for all the past memberships, donations, gifts, grants and to all of our volunteers. Ask a family member or friend to become a member.

Lifetime - \$100.00 individual - \$10.00 student - \$5.00

Lifetime members shown below and followed by the "Early Bird" memberships for 2017

Jeremy Adam	Sandra Everett	Howard Lehto	Elmer Rinehart
Stephen Adamini	Wilma Maki Fanning	Tom Lehto	Theresa Rinehart
Melvin Anderson	Barbara Filizetti	Betty Lukkarinen	David J Roberts
Paul Anderson	Dennis Filizetti	Kristy Basolo Malmsten	Karen Saad
Ronald Anderson	Ruth Fiordalis	Laurie D Manning	Jeanne Sandstrom
Dr. Ralph Archibald, III	FOE Aerie & Auxiliary	Beatrice Matthews	Ann Sarkela
Larry Argall	Sharon Fosmo	Roy Mattson	David Savolainen Sr
Joseph G Barabe	Jerry Gaviglio	Carolyn McDonald	Joyce D Savolainen
Phillip Barry	Scott Gentry	John McDonald	Tarmo Savolainen
John Basolo	Christopher Ghiardi	Ron McGlone	Patricia Sawyer
Terry Basolo	John Gorto	Lynn McMann	Donald Schinella
Kathleen Beauchamp	Kristine Lehto Grunwald	Lucille Method	Olivia Sleeman
David Berndt	Joanne Hakala	Midtown Bakery	Judy Soine
Judy Berndt	Karen Hakala	John P Miller	Dennis Stanaway
Rodney Bessolo	Ida Hakkarinen	Jarrold Molise	Tanya Stanaway
Faith Koski Binns	Warren Heikkila	Jill Molise	Thomas Stanaway
Karl Bohnak	Rae Matthews Helgren	Suzanne Morris	Marjorie Staples
Sarah Maitland Bosken	Lorna Hiller	Don Mourand	Betty Steward
Buck's Party Store	Dr J Marc Himes, MD	Negaunee Lions Club	James Steward
Edna Thomas Butner	Rachel Hirvonen	Alan T Nelson	Marc Sundquist
Catrons Lumber Co	Honor Credit Union	Jean Nelson	Sylvia Sundquist
Anonymous	Katherine Houghton	Old Bank Bldg Antiques	Jacklyn Syrjala
Lynn Chevette	Todd Humphrey	Martin Olgren	Bill Taggart
Tom Chevette	Dennis Jarvi	Gerald Paju	Clarence R Thomas
Cleveland-Cliffs Mining	Ken Jennings	James Paquette	Darroll Thompson
Dan Collins	Jim's Jubilee	Miles Parkkonen	Tino's Bar & Pizza Inc
Jonelle Collins	Pat Johnson	Judith Pasquarella	Theresa Argall-Torreano
Ronald J Collins	Susan Cory Johnson	Donald Patierno	Jack Treloar
Scott Collins	Christie Kangas	Mary Paulson	Mark Trehwella
Catherine Comensoli	Janice Kantola	Virginia Paulson	Michael Trehwella
Kathleen Cory	Kristine Kaski	Joyce Pavicic	George Ulrickson
Brian Davis	Ronald Kauppila	Christopher Penney	Ben Vanni
Delight Deane	Darley Kempainen	William Pentinmaki	Judy Vanni
Gregg DeGabriele	Cheryl Kerkela	Allen Perucco	VFW Romo Post 3165
Mary A DeGabriele	Pauline Kiltinen	Linda Perucco	Nick Visser
Ethel Dobson	Barbara Kirkpatrick	Steven Perucco	Eleanor Wangberg
Robert Dobson	J Craig Kirkpatrick	Jodi Peterson	Keith Wangberg
Dave Dompierre Jr	Joyce Kirkwood	William J Phillips	Charles Wassberg
Dave Dompierre Sr	Glen Kivela	Pioneer Kiwanis Club	Clifford Waters
Donna Dompierre	Esther Kivisto	Gerald E Pirkola	Marguerite Waters
Linda Dompierre	Paul Klein	Gary Piziali	Carolyn Willis
Joseph Drobny	Koskey Funeral Home	Don Price	Melanie Woodworth
Thomas W. Dupras	Ruth Koskinen	Quality Plus Carpet Care	Elizabeth Yelland
Doug Dushane	Peter Kotila	Range Bank	
Eastwood Nursing Center	James A LaJoie	David B Rice	
Donald Ellis	Charles Laurila		
Joan Ericson			
Carol Brown	Harold Johanson	Carol Neely Leach	William Romo
M Elizabeth Cain	Bob Johnson	Joe McCormick	Deanna St. Andre
Diane Carlson	Tina Johnson	Kathy McCormick	Peter Sangalli
Delores DeVold	Barbara Koski	Jon Montgomery Sr	Connie Scanlon
Eric Dompierre	Roland Koski	Jon Neely	Camella Spelgatti
Hunter Johnson Duquette (c)	Joyce Koski	Thomas Nelson	Judy Arbelius Wiig
MacKenzie Duquette (c)	Danielle Koski	Mary Parkkonen	
Lani Duquette	Preston Koski ©	Sandy Heiser Pelto	
Nancy Duquette	Kevin Koski	Karen Salmer Pepin	
Norma Greenwood	Todd Koski	Marilyn Porchetta	
Christy L Ham	Cindy Kotila	Steven Repola	

