

Obituaries

These were gleaned from files found on the old St Louis County, MN GenWeb Site.
They are compiled and formatted so that they are fully searchable.

Pioneer Obits

St. Louis County Minnesota Pioneer, First Settlers, and Old Timers Obituaries

The Obituaries and News Articles were found on the old St Louis Site.
They have been compiled into one searchable pdf file.

The obituaries and other news items are scanned images or text transcribed from the newspaper.
Please remember that the dates listed are the date that the obituary appeared in the paper -
not the date of death.

[Use this link to access the Obituary Images](#)



Biwabik Pioneers:

Alma Erika (Anderson) Nisen - Biwabik Times, Fri. October 10, 1941
John Nisen - Biwabik Times, Fri. June 20, 1947

Canyon Pioneers:

Clara Anderson - Duluth News Tribune, Thurs. December 16, 1967

Duluth Pioneers:

James Judson Barnes - Duluth Daily News, Thurs, February 25, 1892 - added Aug. 20, 2005
Mrs Louise S. Belleperche - Duluth News Tribune, Sun. December 8, 1946
Mrs Caroline Behning - Duluth Herald, Wed. December 11, 1946
Louis Christensen - Duluth Paper, January 20, 1943
Mrs. Magdalena Christensen - Duluth Paper
Mrs. Mary Christensen - Duluth Paper, November 27, 1912
Mrs. Dorothea Dryer - Duluth News Tribune, April 30, 1910
Mrs. Elizabeth Fish - Duluth News Tribune, May 31, 1916
Peter W. Gallagher - Duluth News Tribune, May 21, 1920
Mrs. Mary Grams - Duluth Herald, February 8, 1937
Mrs. Brita L. Johnson - Duluth Herald, March 3, 1950
Pete Oscar Johnson - Duluth News-Tribune, Tues. Dec. 21, 1976
Thomas Kuroski - Duluth News-Tribune, July 6, 1927
Susanna Mohaupt - Duluth Herald, November 29, 1935
Henry Andrew Musolf - Duluth Herald, November 29, 1937
Martin Musolf - Duluth Herald, March 7, 1929
Emma Rockwell - Duluth Herald, February 5, 1926

John Schaffer - obituary - Duluth News Tribune, August 20, 1912
John Schaffer - funeral notice - Duluth News Tribune, August 21, 1912
George O. Smith - Duluth Herald, March 12, 1936
Robert J. Spence - Duluth Herald, February 5, 1926
E. A. Tyler - Duluth News Tribune, June 5, 1926

Ely Pioneers:

John Gouze - Ely Miner, April 22, 1927
Katherine Gouze - Ely Miner, March 28, 1919
Percy Jackson - Ely Miner, August 8, 1913
Cecilia Noall Nankervis - Ely Miner, April 13, 1917
Emily Housley Nankervis - Ely Miner, May 1, 1914 (obit) May 8, 1914 (Funeral Notice)

Gnesen Pioneers:

Ignatius Karalus - Duluth News Tribune, Sat. March 13, 1943
Martin Lepak - Duluth Herald, October 29, 1941

Hibbing Pioneers:

Herman Thompson - Hibbing Daily Tribune, Friday, April 12, 1940

Normanna Pioneers:

Anton Hjelm - Duluth Herald, December 15, 1928

Palo Pioneers:

John I. Carlson - The Biwabik Times, December 2, 1921
Erick Erickson - The Aurora News, April 19, 1928

Virginia Pioneers:

Gustov Blomberg - Virginia Mesaba Daily News, December 16, 1902
Ignatz Tisel - Duluth News Tribune - August 11, 1978



Appeared in the Biwabik Times - Friday, Oct. 10, 1941

Transcription of an obituary for Alma Erika (ANDERSON) NISEN, Biwabik pioneer, submitted by her granddaughter, Charlotte Sue (NISEN) KIBBIE of Kent, Washington (18 May 2002)

Source: newspaper, "The Biwabik Times" Friday Oct. 10, 1941, obit
"Death Calls Mrs. Nisen, Biwabik Pioneer --- Mrs. Alma Nisen, 69, a Biwabik pioneer, died Monday morning at the Biwabik Hospital after a lengthy illness of heart trouble. Funeral services were held at the Community church Thursday afternoon at 2 p.m. with the Reverend Arthur Cartwright officiating.

The body lay in state at the Graham funeral home in Virginia until Thursday noon when it was taken to the Community church. Burial was made at the Lakeside cemetery. Surviving the deceased are her husband, John; two daughters, Mrs. Stephen Abbanat and Mrs. Henry Karki, both of Biwabik; three sons, Arvid of Biwabik, Edward of Seattle, Washington and Elmer of Cleveland; two sisters, Mrs. Edna Phillips, Hibbing and Mrs. Jay Fuller Stafford, Minneapolis; two brothers, A.C. Anderson and F.V. Anderson of Tower; and eleven grandchildren. Pallbearers were Fred Johnson, Frank Sederlund, Ben Enquist, Emil Peterson, Fred Seeley and Gust Berquist.

Mrs. Nisen was born on September 25, 1872 in Sweden and came to Biwabik in 1891 having married Mr. Nisen on August 25 of that year at Ishpeming, Michigan. Mrs. Nisen and her husband came to this part of Minnesota and resided first at the town of Merritt, as there was no town of Biwabik at that time. Mrs. Nisen was at one time a very active member of the Ladies Chapter of Mooseheart lodge and was a faithful worker for the American Red Cross and the Federated church. Mr. and Mrs. Nisen celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on August 25 of this year. Mrs. Nisen being ill at this time, was not able to celebrate this wonderful occasion but her wish was granted to be able to see the day of her fiftieth wedding anniversary."

notes: Mrs. Edna Phillips is actually Phelps; Alma (Anderson) Nisen was not born in Sweden but in Finland. She is my paternal grandmother. -csnkibbie

Submitted by: Charlotte Sue (Nisen) Kibbie - csnkibbie@attbi.com



William Michael Boylan, 1914-1918

From the Mesabi Daily News, March 15, 1960

Ex-Virginia Mayor Dies of Long Illness

William Michael Boylan, 79, former Virginia mayor died Sunday at the Pioneers Infirmary, following a prolonged illness.

Mr. Boylan was born August 18, 1880, in Boscobel, Wis. He attended school in Kalamazoo, Mich., and had lived in Duluth a short time before coming to Virginia, where he established a plumbing business. Many of the early day plumbing contracts for various public buildings in Virginia and the surrounding areas, were under Mr. Boylan's supervision.

He was a former member of the Virginia city council from the First Ward. In 1914, he was elected mayor and served two terms, until 1918. In 1920, he was elected state senator from the 61st District and served two terms in this capacity. For a short term he resided in St. Paul. He also was president of the League of Minnesota Municipalities in the early 1920's.

During his political career, he displayed a dynamic personality, was colorful in his public actions, and a stout debater and speaker.

Survivors are two sons, John of Los Angeles and Robert of Chicago; one daughter, Mrs. John (Mollie) Tuberty of Kalamazoo, Mich.; two sisters, Miss Helen Boylan and Mrs. Austin (Anna) Travis, both of Kalamazoo; two grandchildren; one nephew, Harlan White of Minneapolis.

Funeral services are pending the arrival of relatives at the Graham and Son Funeral Home.

submitted by [Jean Wheeler](#) - added 1/17/2004



Appeared in the Duluth Herald, Wed., December 11, 1946

Duluthian Dies at 99

Mrs. Caroline Behning, 99, one of Duluth's oldest residents, died last night in a Duluth hospital. She resided at 412 East Seventh street.

Mrs. Behning would have been 100 years old Jan. 1.

A native of Germany, she was a resident of Duluth for 77 years and was the widow of the late John Behning. She was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical church.

Surviving are three sons, Edward, Chris and Morris, all of Duluth; a daughter, Mrs. Henry Hauck, Duluth; 21 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

CARL RUDOLPH "RUDY" BERGHULT 1937-1942

(From the Duluth News Tribune - February 19, 2000)

Former Duluth mayor dies at 94 - Berghult served from 1937-1942

Carl Rudolph "Rudy" Berghult, who at 31 became the nation's youngest mayor of a city larger than 100,000 when he was elected mayor of Duluth in 1937, died Wednesday. He was 94.

Berghult also was Duluth's first native-born mayor and was credited with helping secure the government funding for the construction of the Blatnik Bridge, linking Duluth and Superior.

He also beautified the city's Civic Center, ordering the planting of 25-year-old elm trees, shrubs and flowering plants.

"He was a real outgoing person," said his brother, Gordon, of Duluth. "He had charisma that I don't have. He would walk into a room and people would say, "Who's that guy?"

Berghult, who died at his home in Arlington, Texas, served one term as Duluth mayor before being commissioned into the Navy as a lieutenant in 1942 while attending Princeton University.

Born in 1905 in Duluth to Swedish immigrants Carl and Ida Berghult, he was a 1923 graduate of Denfeld High School. He received a bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1926 and a master's degree at Upsala College of Columbia University in New York, where he served as a professor in European history.

In the Navy, Berghult served in Oslo, Norway. He was awarded the Bronze Star in London in 1944 for his actions as captain of a minesweeper escort on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Berghult directed the landing of ships onto Normandy Beach and saved the lives of 15 seriously burned and injured soldiers on a disabled landing craft.

Berghult went on to work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, where he retired after a 21-year career that included work during the Apollo mission years.

His wife, Eva Louise, died in 1995. He is survived by a daughter, Sondra Dietert, and a son, Robert, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and his brother.

C. Rudolph "Rudy" Berghult Former Duluth mayor

C. Rudolph "Rudy" Berghult, 94, of Blue Ridge, Ga., died Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2000, in Arlington, Texas, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born to Swedish immigrants Carl Emil and Ida Berghult in 1905 in Duluth. In 1937, he was elected and served one term as mayor of Duluth before being commissioned into the Navy as a lieutenant at Princeton University in September 1942. Berghult was a 1923 graduate of Denfeld High School and received a bachelor's degree in 1926 at Gustavus Adolphus College and earned a master's degree at Upsala College of Columbia University in New York, where he served as a professor of European history.

Duluth's population in 1937 was 102,000 and Berghult, at age 32, was the youngest mayor of a city in the U.S. of over 100,000 people. One of Berghult's largest accomplishments was his trip to Washington, D.C., where he met with Senator Shipstad in an effort to obtain help in Congress which eventually, with Congressman John Blatnik's leadership, led to the government funding of the Blatnik Bridge between Duluth and Superior.

As World War II was winding down, Berghult served in Oslo, Norway, as deputy chief of a U.S. Naval component of the "Shae's Mission" to Norway. He was awarded the Bronze Star in London in 1944 by Admiral Harold R. Stark, Commander of Naval Forces, Europe. As a captain of a minesweeper escort, on D-Day, June 6, 1944, his ship served as a primary control ship, directing landing ships onto Normandy Beach. He was awarded the Bronze Star for action in

saving the lives of 15 seriously burned and injured soldiers on a disabled landing craft. He was also awarded the American Area Campaign Medal, EAME with star and the Haakon VII Freedom Medal (Norway). Rudy retired from NASA after a 21-year career at the space agency during the Apollo years and had been residing in Blue Ridge where he was chaplain of the Mountain Chapter of NARFE.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Eva Louise (Drewes) in 1995.

Rudy is survived by his daughter, Sondra (Lloyd) Dietert; a son, Robert (Judy) Berghult; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a brother, Gordon (Dorothy) Berghult of Duluth.

Memorial service: today in St. Marks Episcopal Church, Arlington, Texas. Arrangements by Moore Funeral Home, Arlington.



Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune Thurs., December 16, 1976

Clara Anderson, a pioneer resident of Canyon who helped build a church in that southern St. Louis County community, died Monday in Los Angeles. She was 102.

A native of Wisconsin, she crossed Minnesota in a covered wagon as a child and settled with her family in the Red River Valley. Later, among Canyon's first homesteaders, she and her late husband, Frank, cultivated 160 acres of timberland which was accessible only by footpath.

It was through the efforts of the pioneer couple that a church was built in Canyon. There, Mrs. Anderson started the first Ladies Aid, which was called the Esther Circle. Mr. Anderson died 30 years ago, almost on the eve of their golden wedding anniversary.

She was a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Canyon. She moved to Los Angeles about 17 years ago.

Surviving are four daughters, Ada Smith, Whittier, Calif.; Adeline Jones, Glendale, Calif.; Esther Seifert, San Diego, Calif.; and Helen Jensen, Granada Hills, Calif.; 13 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.



JOSHUA B. CULVER 1870 & 1883

(From the Friday, July 20, 1883 weekly Duluth Tribune)

OUR MAYOR DEAD

A hush, a death silence comes over the exciting scenes that are passing, arousing our village to unwonted agitation, and upon the instant the uproar of contention subsides into the stilled and breathless quiet of the death-chamber. Our mayor is dead. Dead in a strange city; dead while yet a traveler and sojourner among strangers. As if painful stillness came hard upon the furious roar of a thunder burst; as if in battle the quiet catacombs followed the awful flash of the artillery's line and the shrieking musketry's fierce volley, or as when at work of command the upheaved sea silenced its fury and its tempestuous alarm sank into softer cadence than a lullaby, so fell a painful silence upon our village yesterday upon the instant it was made known our mayor had fallen by a shaft of death in a far off city, across and beyond the wide expanse of lakes. It is painful to record the words. But there is no escape. Death has closed the doors, and what is, must be told. Mayor Culver died suddenly at 2 o'clock p.m. at Buffalo, N.Y. Death came unannounced, and while he was in apparent strength. The telegraph brought the sad notice soon after, and there was mourning, deep, pervading and bitter all up and down the town. All exciting differences and contentions, all idle talk and vaporous discussion and running to and fro quieted into subdued bewailing, and even business itself assumed a mournful refrain, and drooped as if in sorrow. The village joined in mourning with one accord. Flags were hung at half mast in town and harbor, and symbols of bereavement were hung in many places. A good man was dead, a man whom the town had chosen to be its chief and executive. A worth man, a man whom all could honor and did. Mayor, citizen, neighbor and friend was dead. Truly it was the hour for mourning. The village was distressed, but what shall be said of the family? Better the sable drapery that shrouds the death-chamber ever, should fall about them and close them in from the eyes of others, even though there are none but eyes of pity that droop in sorrow, shedding tears with those who have bitter cause to weep over the body of husband and father. Leave them with their own deal. It is not for others to intrude upon such an hour and scene.

Elsewhere is recorded the particulars of this distressing death, together with a brief biography of the deceased -- Joshua B. Culver. In common with all citizens and all people the TRIBUNE expresses its profound grief over the lamentable death, a death that is a calamity to the place, and would tender also its profoundest sympathy to the stricken and bowed family.



From the Duluth Herald dated January 30, 1922:

The Duluth Herald, 1/30/1922

Mohaupt Funeral Tuesday

MOHAUPT, ERNEST "Funeral services for Ernst Mohaupt, aged 77, who died at this home at 103 North Fifty-fourth avenue west, last night, will be held at the Bell Bros. chapel at 2 p.m. tomorrow. Rev. William Schmidt will officiate. The burial will be in the Oneota cemetery. Mr. Mohaupt has been a resident of West Duluth for more than fifteen years. He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Mrs. H. J. Sanford and five sons, Carl, W. F., F. D., H. C., and Albert."

Submitted by Lara Lynn - ladyhawk00@yahoo.com - November 16, 2001



From the Duluth Herald dated Friday, February 5, 1926:

ROCKWELL, EMMA Mrs. Emma Rockwell, aged 69, widow of A.F. Rockwell, former superintendent of the St. Louis county poor farm, died yesterday at the home of her son, Donald B. Rockwell, Lake Forest, Ill., a suburb of Chicago. She was found dead in bed, according to a special dispatch in The Herald. Mrs. Rockwell had been a resident of Duluth for forty years. Her husband was superintendent of the poor farm about ten years and was widely known in Duluth. He died about ten years ago. Mrs. Rockwell left here in November to make her home with her son. Another son, Fred, of Chicago, and a daughter, Mrs. Henry A. Robinson, Eveleth, Minn., survive. The body will be brought here for funeral services and burial Monday. The details of the service are being arranged.

GEIST, EMIL Emil Geist, aged 75, prominent in civic life at St. Paul, died there yesterday, according to word received here. Mr. Geist was known in Duluth. His brother, Joseph Geist, was a resident here for some years until his death twenty years ago. The latter operated a jewelry store which was later operated by John Erd, a brother-in-law. Mrs. Erd, a sister, survives.

SPENCE, ROBERT J. Robert J. Spence, aged 68, pioneer resident of Duluth, died last night at his home, 2709 West First Street. He is survived by two sons, John S., Duluth, and William J., St. Paul, and two daughters, Mrs. A.L. Mowbray, Duluth, and Mrs. E. Aubray, Chicago. Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p.m. from the residence and at 2:30 p.m. from Central Baptist church with Rev. H.B. Killiam officiating. Interment will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

CHUBBUCK, CHARLES F. Charles F. Chubbuck, aged 65, died at his home, 208 West Sixth Street, last night. His wife and four children, two sons and two daughters, and a brother, Sol Chubbuck, survive. Funeral services will be held at Steward mortuary tomorrow at 2 p.m. with Rev. C.C. Beatty officiating. Interment will be at Forest Hill cemetery.

Submitted by Deb Rychlak - drychlak@centurytel.net - October 13, 1999



JOHN DREW 1876 & 1879

(From the Thursday, September 2, 1909 Duluth News-Tribune)

FORMER MAYOR OF DULUTH DIES AT AGE OF 92 YEARS

John Drew, Said to Be Oldest Resident in City, Passes Away at His Home After 21 Years of Retirement -- Figured in Early History of Northeastern Minnesota.

John Drew, 92 years old, former mayor of Duluth and for many years the head of a large clothing, merchant tailoring and gentlemen's furnishing goods business on Superior street, died yesterday.

During the '70s he was one of a group of five or six men, who in their various lines did practically all the business that was done in northeastern Minnesota. He was known to all the older residents. Ill health confined him closely to his home, 113 North Lake avenue, where he has lived for 26 years.

During the past year Mr. Drew's health has been poor. He was eating breakfast yesterday when he suddenly expired. Mr. Drew was born 92 years ago last April at Reding, Conn. He came to Duluth in 1869, entered actively into the business of the then very young town. He was mayor for the term of 1874-75 and for the term 1879-80. He was a Republican. During the '70s he and Peter Dean were rivals representing their parties for the office of mayor. Mr. Drew was known as "Uncle John" and Mr. Dean was known as "Uncle Peter."

Although but little known in Duluth in recent years except to old settlers, Mr. Drew's name appears often in the city books as the holder of Duluth real estate. He is believed to have been the oldest living resident of the city for several years.

Mr. Drew leaves a wife, Mrs. Emma H. Drew, who with her daughter Alice is now in Portland. They were to have spent some time on the Pacific coast owing to the poor health of Miss Drew but the journey will be curtailed and they will be home in a very few days. Sons of the deceased are Charles H. Drew of the city engineer's office, and John R. Drew of Cleveland.

The absent relatives have been notified and funeral arrangements will not be made until they arrive. The mayor and others of the present city officials will probably attend the funeral in a body. The body will be taken to Sheboygan, Wis., for burial, as a family monument has been erected there.



From the Sunday, February 19, 1956 Duluth News Tribune

BERTS, ALFRED Alfred Berts, 66, West Eveleth, Friday. Survivors, wife, Edith: one daughter, Mrs. William (Milda) Saari, Anoka: one son, Herbert, Biwabik: two brothers, John and Edward, in Finland, and five grandchildren. Services Tuesday.

Submitted by Colleen Carrington - colleencarrington@hotmail.com - Nov. 7, 2001



Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune, June 5, 1926

E. A. Tyler, Pioneer Duluthian, Civil War Veteran, Dies

Ezra Ames Tyler, 90, Pioneer Duluthian and Civil war veteran, died late Friday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Watson S. Moore, 1829 E First st, Duluth. Death resulted from nephritis, brought on as the result of a severe fall.

Funeral services are to take place at 2:30 p. m. next Monday at the residence of Mrs. Moore.

Mr. Tyler was born in Forrestburg, N. Y., on Jan. 17, 1837, later residing at Tyler Hill, Pa. He came to Minnesota in 1860, taking up residence in Owatonna.

Enlisting as a volunteer in the Fourth Minnesota regiment at Fort Snelling in November, 1861. Mr. Tyler participated in 16 battles of the Civil war, including Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain and the seige of Vicksburg. He remained in the service for four years.

At the close of the war, he returned to Owatonna and served four years with the United States mail service on the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. For 12 years, Mr. Tyler was register of deeds of Steel county, Minnesota.

During his residence of nearly 40 years in Duluth, Mr. Tyler was associated with the weighmaster's department of the state of Minnesota, the City National bank, the American Exchange National bank, and of the Moore-Gary Co. Mr. Tyler was an active member of the Gorman-Culver post of the Grand Army of the Republic, was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church. He also was a Mason, belonging to the Owatonna lodge.

Mr. Tyler is survived by a sister, Mrs. J. Tyler of New York, and two daughters, Mrs. Watson S. Moore and Miss Luella Tyler of Duluth.

Submitted by Bobbi Hoyt (Bobbi is not researching Mr. Tyler, she ran across the obit in the paper and graciously submitted)



From the Thursday, September 16, 1926 Eveleth News:

FRANSHOLM, JACOB Funeral Services For Jacob Fransholm Tuesday

Funeral services for Jacob Fransholm, age 65, were held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Erick Jackson, 706 Jackson street, Rev. E. A. Lindgren officiating. The

deceased died Saturday morning at a Duluth hospital from a cancer of the stomach. He was operated upon some time ago. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Erick Jackson, and a son, Jacob Jackson, both of Eveleth, and also a son in St. Paul. Interment was at the Eveleth cemetery. Peterson undertaking parlors were in charge of the funeral arrangements.

Submitted by Colleen Carrington - colleencarrington@hotmail.com - Nov. 7, 2001



J. D. ENSIGN 1881 & 1884

(From the Sunday, November 25, 1923 Duluth News-Tribune)

Pioneer Jurist and Resident of Duluth Dies at Age of 90

Funeral Rites on Monday for Judge Ensign

Veteran Duluth Jurist Died Following Short Illness

Funeral services for Judge Josiah Davis Ensign, who died at the age of 90, at his home, 3244 Woodland Av., Saturday afternoon, will be held at 3 p.m. Monday at the Unitarian church. Rev. H. (unreadable) will officiate, and burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

Judge Ensign became ill two weeks ago, and gradually failed in health thereafter. Acting as judge of district court from 1889 until Jan. 1, 1921, Judge Ensign lived a retired life after leaving the bench.

Born 90 Years Ago.

Judge Josiah David Ensign was born in Boston, Erie county, N.Y., May 14, 1833. His father was Reuben S. Ensign, and his mother Mary Griffin (Hamburg) Ensign. He was one of the few men in Duluth who had actually seen Lincoln, and there were several men living when he was a young man who had seen General Washington.

He was educated in the academies of Ashtabula and Trumbull Cox, Ohio. In 1858 he married Kate A. Jones, of Jefferson, Ohio, who died in 1868. He was married again, taking as his bride Rosa Watrous, of Bay City, Mich., on Dec. 19, 1872.

Enters Law Practice.

He was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1864, and practiced at Jefferson, Ohio, for six years. In 1870 he located in Duluth where he passed the rest of his life. He was prominent in the civic life of Duluth for many years, serving two terms as mayor of Duluth, and county attorney of St. Louis

county for one term. He was appointed judge of the district court April 28, 1889, and was elected to that office five times. In 1921, he retired from office.

Arrives in Duluth.

Judge Ensign was prominent in the civic life of Duluth from the date of his first coming in 1870. In 1872 he was made a director of the First National bank, and in 1880 he was the chief executive of the then village of Duluth.

Upon his arrival in 1870, Mr. Ensign was prominent in the breakwater project, which was expected to solve the harbor difficulties of the community. When it became evident that the project of a harbor outside of Minnesota Point would not be feasible, the plan for a ship canal through the point was revived. The project was pushed forward as rapidly as possible in the fall of 1870, and was completed in the spring of 1872. Mr. Ensign was active in the negotiation in connection with the ship canal.

He was one of the men to whom the first street railway franchise was issued, and when it was found necessary to vacate the town of Portland, Mr. Ensign was the man to whom as trustee all the lots in that section were deeded. The law firm of Ensign & Stearns was founded in 1872, and continued for many years.

Sketched by R. C. Mitchell.

An intimate picture of Mr. Ensign is gleaned from the reminiscences of Robert C. Mitchell who founded and edited the "Tribune" in 1870. Mr. Mitchell wrote: "I remember the first time that I ever saw J. D. Ensign, now our honored senior judge, was one May morning while my printers were at work setting type out on the sidewalk. He was introduced to me by the late James D. Ray as a young lawyer from Ashtabula who had just come to town. I can remember to this day how he looked, and that he wore a light-colored coat and a low crowned, broad-rimmed leghorn hat."

On March 23, 1873, the First National bank of Duluth was opened and among the list of directors is found the name J. D. Ensign.

Social Center Moved.

About 1872-1873, the social center of Duluth was moved to Ashtabula Heights, between Second and Sixth ave E and First and Fourth sts. At that time Judge Ensign took up his residence in that region, where he continued to reside until very recently.

Judge O. P. Stearns and Judge Ensign were associated with Luther Mendenhall in the straightening out of Duluth finances, and on Oct. 2, 1877, through the efforts of these men and others, they succeeded in procuring for Duluth a "more favorable village charter." (More favorable than the previous one.)

Peter Dean Elected.

In 1880 Peter Dean was elected president and during the year was able to notify Judge Stearns that the sinking fund for the payment of the old bonds was ready to work. That was in the long and complicated process of getting Duluth on its feet again financially.

Dean did not complete his term, resigning in September, and Judge Ensign then took the office for the unexpired term. In January, 1881, Judge Ensign was elected president and had an important part in the movement which brought the village a new charter in April of 1882.

Mayor in 1881.

The new charter provided that Duluth should have the city form of government, though it was still a village, and on April 13, 1881, Judge Ensign was elected mayor. Mr. Ensign was again elected mayor in 1884, being one of the last mayors of the "village" of Duluth.

At one time Judge Ensign was a member of the school board of Duluth.

Well-Known Firm.

One of the best known legal firms of the state for some years was that of Ensign, Cash & Williams. The three were associated from 1885-1889, when the senior member of the firm became a member of the judiciary.

Judge Ensign was for many years a leading figure in Republican politics. He was of enough importance politically in Ohio before he was 30 to have a conference with President Lincoln in the White House. Many times in after years he would refer to this visit. He was in constant touch with United States Senator Len Wade and other congressional leaders of Ohio during the Civil war.

Judge Ensign was very close to James A. Garfield and the latter frequently wrote to the former about his political plans and ambitions. When Garfield reached the presidency, his former Ohio friend had his ear at will about Minnesota affairs.

A Large Library.

The late jurist was the possessor of one of the largest libraries in the city. The leading American and English authors were numbered among his many books. In his later years, following his retirement from the bench, he read for hours at a time. He maintained the keenest interest in world affairs. History and biography always had a strong appeal for him.

Two of the friends he liked most to talk of were the late O. F. Stearns, and John G. Williams, who of recent years has perhaps been closest of all to Judge Ensign, save the members of the latter's family. Mr. Williams acted for Judge Ensign at the time the city of Duluth purchased the

Ensign home at Second st and Fifth av E for a hospital. Judge Ensign was loath to leave the locality where he had lived for practically a half century, but he was finally persuaded that it would be better for him to be free of so large a dwelling. He purchased the residence on the southeast corner of Oxford st and Woodland av and there he dwelt until his career ended. A little less than a year ago, his physician, Dr. S. H. Boyer, was gravely concerned about Judge Ensign's health, but the will to live was strong and the indisposition was thrown off. Judge Ensign's mind was as active as when he was but 50. The course of President Coolidge, the issues to come before congress, the affairs of Europe, and no less the affairs of Duluth and of St. Louis county interested him keenly.

Had Most Tenacious Memory.

Judge Ensign's memory was tenacious. Night after night for years he would charm his intimate friends by casually dwelling upon the activities of leading figures of the northwest and middle west, all of whom he knew well. On his last birthday, he talked with deep feeling of his mother, and he told of how in his boyhood days he was called upon to go to a grist mill near Buffalo, N.Y. "I do not suppose I will be here much longer," he remarked, shaking his head slowly. "I am 90 now, but I enjoy the trees, and the grass, and the birds, and my friends, and my books just as much as ever."

He is survived by his widow, two daughters, Miss Julia Ensign and Mrs. Warren E. Greene, all of Duluth; three grandsons, Josiah Ensign Greene, Duty Greene and Kenyon Greene; two granddaughters, Mr. Arthur S. Dunning and Mrs. Everett Mitchell, the latter of Washington, Conn., and two great granddaughters.



From the Duluth News Tribune, May 31, 1916

PIONEER RESIDENT OF DULUTH DIES

Following an illness of several months, Mrs. Elizabeth Fish, aged 72, 4131 Gladstone street, died Monday night of heart disease. She had been a resident of Duluth for 35 years and was well known among the older generation of the city.

Mrs. Fish leaves two daughters: Mrs. W. C. Burton of Windom, Minn., and Miss Anna Fish of Duluth. The former arrived in the city yesterday to complete arrangements for the funeral which will be held from the residence or Crawford's undertaking establishment. It will be private.

Appeared in the Virginia Mesaba Daily News Dec. 16, 1902

Submitted by Bruce Nordstrom - Ccjune@aol.com



Death Calls Another

Again has death entered within the mysterious gate of our city and called unto itself a well known citizen and one whom at this time leaves a great void amongst a happy home. This time it laid its finger on Gustov Blomberg, the faithful employee of Alfred Burke. The end came Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock at his home on Poplar street, after but a few days of actual sickness, although he had been feeling badly for several months or more. The cause assigned is heart failure. Mr. Blomberg was a pioneer of Virginia, coming here in 1893 and had been closely identified with the city's up-building during all these years. He served as alderman of the Fourth ward for nearly a term, filling the vacancy of Peter Shipley. In the capacity of aldermen, the city was much benefited in his counsels. He was about 36 years old and leaves a wife and three small children to mourn his demise. Deceased was a member of the Scandinavian lodge and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, under the auspices of which society he will be buried Sunday afternoon, the services to be held at the Hawkinson Hall. In the sad hour of their affliction, The Virginian joins the many friends of Mrs. Blomberg and children in extending their sympathy in their sad hour of need.

Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune - Wednesday, March 24, 1948

Mrs. Mary A. Lozway, 88, Duluth's oldest Gold Star mother of World war 1, died yesterday in her residence, 12 North Twenty-sixth avenue west.

Her son, Earl Lozway, died while in service with America's armed forces in 1918, and her grandson, Gerald Stanford, died in service during World war II.

Mrs. Lozway was a native of Nebraska City, Nebr., and had resided in Duluth for 38 years. She was a member of David Wisted American Legion post auxillary and a former chaplain of that body.

She took an active part in the veterans service work in Duluth. Mrs. Lozway was a life member of the J.B. Culver Women's Relief corps, auxilliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, and was a member of St. Clement's Catholic parish.

Surviving are four daughters, Mrs. Nellie Bergstrom, Mrs. Hjalmer Olson and Mrs. Raymond Stanford, Duluth, and Mrs. James Larkins, Tacoma, Wash., a son, Frank Lozway, Duluth; a sister, Mrs. Nellie Gilmore, Downers Grove, Ill.; 27 grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Submitted by Deb Rychlak - drychlak@centurytel.net - October 13, 1999



From the Duluth Herald dated Thursday, February 21, 1935:

LARSON, JUNE LOUISE June Louise Larson, 8-year-old daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Gust W. Larson, Kenwood, died this morning in a local hospital after a brief illness. Surviving are her parents and a sister, Betty, Duluth.

MICHALSKI, WALENTY Walenty Michalski, 73, a resident of Duluth since 1918, died last evening at the home of his daughter, Mrs. V. Paskett, 2503 West Eleventh Street. Born in Poland, he came to the United States 42 years ago, and resided for many years at Kettle River before coming to Duluth. He is survived by three sons, John, Duluth; Anthony, Superior, and Michael, Virginia; four daughters, Mrs. Paskett and Mrs. Catherine Matel, Duluth; Mrs. Margaret Loberg, Beloit, Wis.; and Mrs. Anna Kolodge, Kettle River, and 21 grandchildren.

STROM, ALINA Mrs. Alina Strom, Kelsey, Minn., died in a Duluth hospital yesterday. She had lived here 37 years and is survived by her husband, Leander; five daughters, Agnes, Mildred and Edith, Duluth; Esther and Verna, Kelsey; two sisters, Mrs. Otto Johnson and Mrs. John Fagerstrom, Duluth, and a sister and brother in Finland.

ERJAVEC, JOHN SR. John Erjavec, Sr., 68, a resident of Duluth for 17 years, died in his home, 628 West Second Street, last evening. He had been employed by the Northern Pacific railroad for 15 years, and was a member of the KSKJ lodge. Surviving are three sons, John, Jr., Rudolph and Frank, and two daughters, Theresa and Mary, all of Duluth.

RIEDEL, EMMA A. Mrs. Emma A. Riedel, 726 East Seventh Street, a resident of Duluth 30 years, died yesterday in a Duluth hospital. She was a member of the First Presbyterian church and is survived by her husband, George L.; four daughters, Mrs. S.E. Lewis, St. Paul; Genevieve, Marion and Helen, Duluth; two brothers, Harry Boehne, Parker's Prairie, Minn., and Arthur Boehne, Deer Creek, Minn., and five sisters, Mrs. T.C. Neilson, Ontario, Ore.; Misses Mina and Della Boehne, Portland, Ore.; Mrs. Ella Phillips, Spokane, Wash., and Mrs. Mabel Johnson, California.

AVERY, CHARLES L. Charles L. Avery, age 80, former resident of Duluth and vicinity for 54 years and a former yardmaster and switchman for the N.P. Railway for many years, died yesterday in the home of his daughter, Mrs. F.A. Burton, Jamestown, N.D., with whom has had been living for the last three years. Other survivors are: A daughter, Mrs. John S. Spence of Duluth; a son, Elwin, town of Herman; a sister, Mrs. George Albright, Portland, Ore.; two brothers, Albert, Sault Ste. Marie and Ben, Delavan, Wis. The body will be brought to Duluth for burial.

Submitted by Colleen Carrington - colleencarrington@hotmail.com - Nov. 7, 2001



From the Monday, July 28, 1941 Duluth Herald

JACKSON, JACOB Jacob Jackson, 51 years old, a resident of Eveleth for more than 30 years, died yesterday at Ancker hospital, St. Paul. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Mathilda Jackson, Eveleth, and a brother, Fred Franzholm, St. Paul. Services will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Graham funeral home, Eveleth, with the Rev. E. E. Backlin officiating. Interment will be in Eveleth cemetery.

EDWARD H. HATCH 1941-1945

(From the Sunday, September 3, 1961 Duluth News-Tribune)

Services Slated Tuesday for E. H. Hatch

Funeral services for Edward H Hatch, 79, a former mayor of both Duluth and Eveleth and area Republican leader, who died in his Duluth home Saturday morning, will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday in Endion Methodist Church.

Masonic services will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the Masonic Temple in Eveleth, with burial in the Eveleth cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Roland Davey, Arthur Naslund and John Owens, all of Eveleth, and Alfred Johnson, Robert B. Morris and Arthur Nelson, all of Duluth.

Mr. Hatch resided with his wife, the former Ella Talboys, at 4218 Robinson St. They were married in Eveleth in April 20, 1909. Besides his wife, he also is survived by a brother, John, Chisholm.

Mr. Hatch had served three terms on the Eveleth City Council and was mayor of the Iron Range community from 1918-1920. He was mayor of Duluth during the war years 1941-45.

He was born Aug. 24, 1882 in Truro, Devonshire, England, and came to the United States with his parents and brothers, John and Frank, in 1887, when the family settled in Crystal Falls, Mich.

In 1902 he was hired by the Oliver Iron Mining Co. as a chemist and ordered to report to Two Harbors. En route to Two Harbors, he received a telegram ordering him to Eveleth. He served as an OIM chemist in Eveleth and Hibbing, before going to work as a clerk at the Spruce Mine in 1906. In 1906, he was appointed cashier at the Spruce Mine.

Mr. Hatch served as Eveleth postmaster from 1911 to 1914.

On April 15, 1915, he was named an agent for the New York Life Insurance Co., a job he held for most of the next 45 years. He was secretary of the Eveleth Selective Service Board during World War I.

Mr. Hatch moved to Duluth in 1921. After his wartime years as mayor, he served for a time as city park superintendent. He was chairman of the St. Louis County Republican Party from 1936 to 1941.

The former mayor never missed a Fourth of July celebration in Eveleth and this year attended his 60th consecutive celebration. Each year at the corner of Jones and Grant in Eveleth, Mr. Hatch would hold "open house," greeting his countless Range friends. In recent years he was always given the honor of leading the Fourth of July parade. He always wore a red rose in his lapel.

Mr. Hatch was one of the outstanding rose grower in Duluth and won national recognition for his roses. On Aug. 30, the Minnesota Horticultural Society presented him with the bronze medal of the American Rose Society, one of three such awards made annually.

He was cited for "pioneering study and popularization" of rose culture. The citation further recognized him for his maintenance of a large test garden "of exceptional quality and educational value," and his service in organization of the first Duluth rose show, his work on show committees for the last 18 years, and his activity in the group that started the first state show of the Minnesota Rose Society.

He was frequently called upon to lecture on roses and was given much credit for the increase in the number of roses planted throughout the city.

Mr. Hatch was very interested in athletics, was predient of the Duluth Dukes baseball club in the 30s, and for many years was affiliated with Iron Range baseball and hockey leagues.

Mr. Hatch was a member of the Eveleth Masonic Lodge, Duluth Scottish Rite bodies and Aad Temple of the Shrine. He also was a member of the Duluth Elks Lodge and the American Rose Society.



TREVANION W. HUGO 1900-1903 & 1920

(From the Wednesday, February 28, 1923 Duluth News-Tribune)

T. W. Hugo, High Mason, Pioneer Dies Suddenly

Trevanion William Hugo, twice mayor of Duluth, nationally famous Masonic leader and widely known consulting engineer, died suddenly Tuesday morning at his home at 321 Sixth avenue West. His death was due to a relapse from a slight attack of influenza.

The funeral will be held at the Masonic temple at 2 p.m. Thursday. Odd fellows will join with the Masons. Burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

Large delegations from the Masonic lodges in the Twin Cities and Fargo, including the officers of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, are expected to attend the funeral. Due to the absence of the grand commander of the Scottish Rite, who is on a visit to the Canal Zone, and the failure of P. W. Weidner, secretary of the supreme council of the Scottish Rite, to obtain anyone to take over his duties at the world headquarters temple of the Scottish Rite in Washington, D.C., it was thought unlikely that any of the supreme officers of the lodge would be able to attend the funeral.

Mr. Hugo as grand chancellor of the supreme council of Scottish Rite Masonry and sovereign grand inspector general for Minnesota, was one of the ranking Masons of the world and was fourth in the southern jurisdiction of the lodge and in line for the sovereign grand commander, the highest position in the rite.

He was twice mayor of Duluth. In 1890, Mr. Hugo was elected alderman from the Fourth ward and honored with the presidency of the council, in which capacity he served for eight years. He was elected mayor in 1900. In 1921, he refused the general request that he become a candidate for mayor after having completed the unexpired term of Mayor Magney, who resigned to campaign the district bench.

Welfare Work.

Besides his long period of public service and his welfare work through Masonic organizations, Mr. Hugo has established a wide reputation as a consulting engineer, and was a prominent member of a number of national engineering bodies. He was 74 years old at his death. He was born in Boddinoc, Cornwall, England, from where he emigrated with his parents to Kingston, Ont., at an early age.

He was educated in the public schools at Kingston where he worked as a machinist for five years before becoming a marine engineer on lake steamers which work he followed until coming to Duluth with his family in 1881 to become chief engineer at elevator "B." He was connected with a number of large elevator plants as chief engineer at the time of his death.

Masonic Literature.

He leaves one son, Reno T. Hugo of Duluth, a brother Francis M. Hugo of New York City, and one sister, Mrs. Mary Emma Kilpatrick, Kingston, Ont. A son, Victor Hugo, died in St. Louis, Mo., about 10 years ago. Mrs. Victor Hugo and her two children have been making their home with Mr. Hugo. Mr. Hugo's wife died in Duluth almost 15 years ago.

He was a large contributor to Masonic literature, which includes his index on Morals and Godma of Masonry. He was among the leaders to inaugurate infant welfare work by Scottish Rite bodies. Among the more important commissions in Masonry held by Mr. Hugo were: Grand chancellor, supreme council of the Scottish Rite; sovereign grand inspector of the Scottish Rite for Minnesota; past imperial sovereign of the order of the Red Cross of Constantine; past grand

high priest of the grand chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Minnesota; past commander of the Minnesota commandry of the Knights Templar; past potentate of the St. Paul Shrine lodge; deputy grand chancellor of the DeMolay for Minnesota; vice president of the Shrine hospital for crippled children at Minneapolis, and vice president of the Masonic Home board for Minnesota.



Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune, Sat. March 13, 1943

Ignatius Karalus, 69, route 3, Box 596, Duluth, died yesterday at a local hospital. He was a pioneer resident of the township of Gnesen, moving there from Michigan 58 years ago. He was born in Poland.

Mr. Karalus was active in Gnesen community, serving on the school board for 20 years and was school clerk at the time of his death. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church, Gnesen, and the Polish National alliance. He was secretary of the alliance for 15 years.

Survivors are his wife, Mary; one son, Lewis, Gnesen; eight daughters, Miss Mary and Mrs. Frank Lapcinski, Duluth; Misses Anna and Lucille, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Anthony Nicoski, Superior; Mrs Patrick Vitullo, Minneapolis; Mrs. William Hartello, Bessemer, Mich.; and Mrs. William Kloss, Los Angeles; five grandsons, and one sister, Mrs. William Sommers, Hines, Wis.



Funeral Notice:

Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune, Sunday, March 14, 1943

KARALUS, Ignatius, route 3, box 596. Funeral services Tuesday 10 a.m., at St. Joseph's church, Gnesen. Recitation of the rosary Monday, 8 p.m., at the Grady & Hughes funeral home. Interment, Gnesen cemetery.



Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune, Sat. March 13, 1943

Ignatius Karalus, 69, route 3, Box 596, Duluth, died yesterday at a local hospital. He was a pioneer resident of the township of Gnesen, moving there from Michigan 58 years ago. He was born in Poland.

Mr. Karalus was active in Gnesen community, serving on the school board for 20 years and was school clerk at the time of his death. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church, Gnesen, and the Polish National alliance. He was secretary of the alliance for 15 years.

Survivors are his wife, Mary; one son, Lewis, Gnesen; eight daughters, Miss Mary and Mrs. Frank Lapcinski, Duluth; Misses Anna and Lucille, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Anthony Nicoski, Superior; Mrs. Patrick Vitullo, Minneapolis; Mrs. William Hartello, Bessemer, Mich.; and Mrs. William Kloss, Los Angeles; five grandsons, and one sister, Mrs. William Sommers, Hines, Wis.



Appeared in the Duluth Daily News, Thurs., February 25, 1892

Obit:

An Old Resident Dies

J. J. Barnes, an old Duluth settler died at his home on Park Point yesterday of typhoid pneumonia, aged 46 years. Mr Barnes was born in Dodge County, Wis., in 1846. In 1862, at the age of 16 years, he enlisted in Company A, of the Tenth Minnesota regiment, as a drummer boy and as he enlisted he demanded to be allowed to carry a musket, which he did through three years of the war. He came to Duluth in 1870 and has been in the employ of Mr. Gray, the lumberman, almost consistently since. Mr. Barnes leaves a wife and four children, the eldest being a young lady and the others small. Mrs. Barnes is a sister of Fred Russell of this city. The deceased was a man generally admired for his steadfast honesty and upright character. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity and of Willis A. Gorman post, G. A. R.

Although possessed of some property he unfortunately left no insurance. The funeral will occur at 10 o'clock tomorrow under direction of Willis A. Gorman post, G. A. R. All friends are invited to attend. ("Duluth Daily News, Thurs, 25 Feb. 1892)

Obit:

In Memoriam. Our comrade and friend Mr. J. J. Barnes will be honored with a soldier's burial at 10 a.m. tomorrow Friday, from the congregational church. At a special meeting last evening of the Willis A. Gorman post, many touching tributes were offered this kindly and true life. In the plain and unostentatious manner in which he always lived, he has left many witnesses to his faithful and generous friendship. When a lad 16 he enlisted at Owatonna as a drummer boy in the Tenth Minnesota. Once in the ranks, he dropped the drum and shouldered the musket, which he carried right bravely through the years of march and battle 'till he was mustered out of the service in June, 1865. With perhaps but one exception he alone in the state was both veteran and a son of a veteran. The writer has known him for 21 years and with many others mourn the loss of one of the best and kindest friends of his life. We have cause to thank for the record of such a man, true as steel, honest as the day is long, laying up little of this world's goods, but leading a legacy to his family for which they will ever have occasion to be thankful. ("Duluth Evening Herald", Thurs, 25 Feb. 1892)

Submitted by Brian - bksfish@hotmail.com - added August 19, 2005



Appeared in the Biwabik Times - Friday, June 20, 1947

Transcription of an obituary for John NISEN, Biwabik pioneer, submitted by his granddaughter, Charlotte Sue (NISEN) KIBBIE of Kent, Washington (18 May 2002)

Source: newspaper, "The Biwabik Times" Friday June 20, 1947, obit Nisen, Merritt-Biwabik Pioneer, Buried Tuesday John Nisen, 83, one of the first settlers in Merritt and Biwabik, died Saturday morning, June 14, at the Biwabik hospital following an illness of several years. The deceased was born in Sweden on February 22, 1864, and in the year of 1890, in Ishpeming, Michigan, he married Mrs. Nisen who preceded him in death in October of 1941. The following year Mr. and Mrs. Nisen settled in the town of Merritt and after the burning of Merritt in the year of 1893 they moved to Biwabik.

During Mr. Nisen's fifty-six years as a resident of Merritt and Biwabik he was employed as blasting foreman at the Biwabik mine retiring from this position at the age of 65. Since his retirement he has spent many hours out-of-doors, being a lover of nature; until his recent illness confined him to his home.

Survivors of the deceased include two daughters, Mrs. Henry Karki and Mrs. Steve Abbanat of Biwabik; three sons, Arvid on the West Coast; Edward of Seattle, Washington and Elmer L. of Fairbanks, Alaska; one sister, Mrs. Vendla Nelson of Chicago; twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2 o'clock in the Community church with the Reverend Cartwright officiating. The body was taken to the church at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning to lie in state until services. Burial was made in the Lakeside cemetery with Ed. Miners, F.M. Seeley, Walter Ostby, Frank Sederlund, Oscar F. Strom and N.P. Riley acting as casketbearers. Funeral arrangements were in charge of the Graham Funeral home of Virginia.

Out-of-town relatives and friends at the funeral services were Mrs. Vendla Nelson of Chicago, Mrs. Edna Phelps of Hibbing, Mrs. Archie Phelps and daughter of Duluth, Mrs. Thomas Hall of Tower, Miss Lola Anderson of Ely, Mrs. Ralph Swenson and son Rodney of Two Harbors, Mrs. R. Heiska and children, Janell and Gary of Virginia, Mrs. George Anderson and son of Gilbert, Mrs. Madeline Abbanat, Mrs. Jennie Colletti and Mrs. Sisto Settimi, all of Aurora and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Abbanat of Virginia.

notes: He was actually born in Finland. It's Virginia, Minnesota; not the state of Virginia. -csnkibbie

Submitted by: Charlotte Sue (Nisen) Kibbie - csnkibbie@attbi.com



GEORGE W. JOHNSON 1945-1953

(From the Friday, June 21, 1974 Duluth News-Tribune)

Ex-Mayor, legislator succumbs

George W. Johnson, a former mayor of Duluth and a six-term legislator, died in a Duluth hospital Thursday at 79.

A life-long city resident, he was mayor from 1945 to 1953 and served as a state representative from the 59th District from 1925 through 1937. He was speaker of the House for the 1935-37 state legislative sessions, only the second Duluthian to ever hold that post.

Mr. Johnson was graduated from Central High School and Duluth Business College. Early in his career he held positions in sales. Later he operated his own printing company. After leaving the office of mayor, he entered the real estate business. He also served as an appraiser for the state.

While mayor, he was elected vice president of the Minnesota Conference of Mayors. He also was a past president of the West End Business and Civic Club and a past patron of Euclid Chapter of the Order of Eastern Star.

His memberships included Central Avenue United Methodist Church and its board of directors, the Duluth Scottish Rite bodies and he was a 50-year member of Trinity Masonic Lodge.

While in the Legislature, Mr. Johnson served on the Interim Tax Committee and Interim Social Service Committee.

Mr. Johnson and his wife, the former Grace Lutz, have resided at 4709 W. 4th St. She and several nieces and nephews survive.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Central Avenue United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Leslie E. Drake officiating. Visitation will begin at noon Sunday at Fred Olson Mortuary and continue at the church from noon to 2 p.m. Monday.

Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune, Wednesday, August 21, 1912

Submitted by: Shirley Solem



SCHEFFER FUNERAL TODAY

The funeral services for John Schaeffer, 80 years old, 2713 West Fourth street, will be held at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon from the family residence. Burial will be made in Greenwood cemetery. Rev. George E. Silloway, pastor of the Grace M.E. church will officiate.

Mr. Schaeffer was one of the early explorers of northern Minnesota. He came to the head of the lakes 40 years ago. In company with Thomas F. Cole he explored a large part of the range country in the early days,

Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune, Tuesday, August 20, 1912

Submitted by: Shirley Solem



JOHN SCHAFFER DIES AT ADVANCED AGE

John Schaffer, 80 years old, a pioneer resident of Duluth, died at his home, 2713 West Fourth street, late Sunday night after an illness of a few days. Mr. Schaffer has resided in Duluth for the past 25 years.

He leaves a widow and four sons and two daughters. The sons are Frank, Charles, and Arthur of this city and John of Superior. The daughters are Mrs. Benjamin McLean of Osceola, Iowa, and Miss Emma Schaffer of Duluth.

The funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 o'clock from the family residence. Interment will be made in the Greenwood cemetery in Superior.



Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune Sun., December 8, 1946

Pioneer Duluthian Dies Here at 92

Mrs. Louise S. Belleperche, 92, of 2002 West Third street, died yesterday in a Duluth hospital after a long illness. Born in Peru, Ind., she was a Duluth resident for the last 81 years. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. A. J. Gruesen, Duluth; two sons, Joseph R., Glendale, Calif., and Albert J., Portland; one brother, Adolph C. Albachten, Duluth, and seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



J.A. McCUEN 1912

(From the November 6, 1927 Duluth News-Tribune)

Funeral of Dr. McCuen, Former Duluth Mayor, to Be Held Monday

Funeral services for Dr. J. A. McCuen, 63, pioneer Duluth physician and former mayor who died Friday night, will be held at 3:15 p.m. Monday at the Masonic temple, Lake av and Second st, under auspices of Ionic lodge, No. 186. A. F. and A. M., and Scottish rite. The Rev. Noble S. Elderkin will officiate. Burial will be in Forest Hill cemetery.

Doctor McCuen's death at his home, 1923 E. Fifth st, followed and illness of several months. He was the last mayor under the old aldermanic form of city government, defeating M. B. Cullum at the election Feb. 6, 1912. He served until April 14, 1913, when the aldermanic government was replaced by the present commission form. Doctor McCuen had also served as county coroner.

The former mayor was born July 17, 1864, at Guelph, Ont., where he received his early education. He came to Duluth in 1892 and took an active interest in civic affairs. He was a member of Shrine, Elks and Modern Samaritans besides the Ionic Scottish rite bodies.

Surviving are a daughter, Miss Gertrude McCuen, Duluth; a brother, David McCuen, Calgary, Alta., and two sisters, Mrs. James Henning and Carrie McCuen, Hamilton, Ont.



HORACE B. MOORE 1885

(From the Monday, December 24, 1906 Duluth News-Tribune)

HORACE B. MOORE DIES SUDDENLY AT HIS HOME

Secretary and Treasurer of Duluth Board of Trade, and Former Mayor of Zenith City, Is Stricken By Heart Failure, and Passes Away in a Few Minutes.

Horace B. Moore, 63 years old, secretary and treasurer of the Duluth Board of Trade and former mayor of this city, dropped dead from heart failure last evening at 7:30, at his apartments, No. 2 Chester Terrace. Shortly before the fatal attack he had complained of pains in his breast which were slightly relieved by an emetic. After seating himself in a chair he told his wife that his throat was very cold and while she was preparing hot cloths to apply to him, he gasped, raised his body slightly and fell back dead.

Drs. Arthur F. Ritchie and Horatio Walker, who reside in the neighborhood, were immediately called and they said that death had been instantaneous.

Was a Great Surprise.

Mr. Moore's death came as a surprise to everyone, as he was apparently in the best of health. Yesterday morning he left home about 8 o'clock and went to the Board of Trade building, where he was busy all day getting matters straightened up for the New Year. Thinking probably he was going out to lunch at noon, Mrs. Moore telephoned to him and said that she would come down and join him. He told her that he had so much work to do that he would not eat anything until evening. He arrived at his apartments in Chester Terrace about 5:30 o'clock and partook of a light lunch.

Pains Attack Him.

About 7 o'clock he was seized with violent pains in the chest and shoulders and told his wife that he was suffering from acute indigestion and asked her to give him some peppermint, which she did. Little relief was experienced from this treatment and he drank warm water, which caused vomiting. Chills followed and he died shortly afterwards.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sisters, Mrs. John Putman of Fort Worth, Texas, and Mrs. Frank Derrick of Broadhead, Wis. Services under the auspices of the Duluth Board of Trade will be held at the home this afternoon at 3:30 and will be conducted by Rev. A. W. Ryan, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal church. At 5:30 this afternoon the remains will be taken to the Omaha depot and sent to Broadhead, Wis., where interment will be made.

Since last September Mr. Moore has been troubled almost constantly with pains in his chest, which, during the past three weeks, assumed an aggravated form. He complained to a number of friends on different occasions that he always felt a shortness of breath after walking up Twelfth avenue from Superior to First street. On one occasion last September he fell on his knees when he reached First street. However, nothing serious was thought about his condition either by himself or his friends.

Was Mayor of Duluth.

Mr. Moore was born at Danville, Ill., and received his early education in the public schools of that city. Later he entered Dartmouth college, from which he graduated. In 1880 he came to Duluth and entered the employ of R. L. Henry, a lumber dealer. When the Duluth Lumber company was organized he was made secretary and served until the company went out of business. In 1885 he was elected mayor of Duluth, serving one term. During Cleveland's first term as president, Mr. Moore was appointed collector of customs for Duluth and served four years. Three years ago he was elected secretary and treasurer of the Duluth Board of Trade. He was a prominent member of the Duluth Commandery No. 18, Knight Templars, of which he was secretary for many years.



E. CLIFFORD MORK 1959-1962

(From the Wednesday, August 15, 1962 Duluth News-Tribune)

Rites for Mayor Mork To Be Friday Afternoon

Funeral services for Duluth Mayor E. Clifford Mork, who died in his home at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday of a coronary occlusion, will be at 2 p.m. Friday in the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sixth Avenue East and Third Street.

Rev. Wilbert Johnson, pastor of Gloria Dei, and Rev. D. Walter Lyngdal, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, will be officiating ministers. Mr. Mork was a member of Gloria Dei. Pastor Lyngdal was a close friend of the mayor.

Burial will be in the family plot in Union Cemetery on the Hermantown Road. Pallbearers and honorary pallbearers will be named today.

The mayor's personal physician was called to the Mork home, 1612 Waverly Ave, at 2 a.m. by his wife when she noticed him ill in bed. The physician said the mayor died shortly after he arrived.

Mr. Mork had never been seriously ill before, the physician stated. There had been no indication of a heart ailment. The mayor would have been 57 years old Aug. 22.

Mr. Mork appeared well at Monday night's City Council meeting. He spent an hour or so after the session discussing city affairs with Duane Rappana, council president; Sherman Iverson, city councilman, and Harry Reed, executive secretary of the Governmental Research Bureau, Inc.

He became Duluth's 30th mayor in the spring of 1959. His term would have expired next spring. He was planning to seek re-election.

He was the first Duluth mayor to die in office since the city's first mayor, J. B. Culver, died during his second term in 1883. Culver had first served in 1870.

Mr. Mork and his wife, Evelyn, his only survivor, operated Mork Food Supply, 605 W. 1st St., a business started by his father.

His full name was Emil Clifford Mork. He said he used the initial E. because there was another Emil Mork in Duluth.

He was graduated as an honor student from Central High School in 1922. He was a high jumper with the school track team.

Mr. Mork served as district director for the Office of Price Stabilization in Duluth during the early 1950s and for eight years was a member of the Duluth Board of Education. He was a long-time Democratic-Farmer-Labor party member.

He was president of the Minnesota Food Retailers Association in 1947-49 and headed the Duluth Retail Grocers and Meat Dealers Association for four years.

Mr. Mork launched the Gateway Urban Renewal plan, guided it through the City Council and Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority and used his influence with Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey and Rep. John A. Blatnik to get fast, favorable federal action on the project.

Formation of a business development corporation by members of the Duluth Area Redevelopment Administration fulfilled one of his campaign promises.

He appointed a citizens' advisory committee for a proposed arena-auditorium. He had planned to attend the meeting of the committee Tuesday night.

The Morks had no children. They were an extremely close couple. While Mr. Mork served as mayor, his wife operated their store.

His death was mourned by associates in Washington, D.C., St. Paul and Duluth.

"I believe he was the most dedicated man that I have ever known," Iverson said. "Mr. Mork lived public service and was completely honest and fearless. His death is a terrible shock (sic) to the community."

Gov. Elmer L. Anderson said, "I am deeply distressed. Mayor Mork was dedicated to the upbuilding of Duluth. He can be said to have died while striving mightily to serve his community."

"It is with very deep regret and heartfelt sorrow that I learned of the death of my old friend, Mayor Mork," Blatnik said in Washington. "He has been a sincere and devoted public servant, so vitally interested in Duluth and its welfare that he frequently sacrificed his personal health and business in its favor."

Harold W. Grams, Virginia, chairman of the St. Louis County Republican party, said, "Every citizen recognizes the long civic service rendered to Duluth by Mr. Mork and appreciates the many projects he has tried to complete for the city. Our sympathy is wholeheartedly with his family."

Senator Humphrey expressed himself as "shocked and saddened" and termed Mayor Mork "an outstanding leader, a tireless worker for the betterment of Duluth." Mayor Mork's "shoes will be hard to fill," the senator said. "All his friends mourn his passing."

Appeared in the Duluth News Tribune, May 21, 1920



PIONEER WOODSMAN DIES; FUNERAL WILL BE TOMORROW

Peter W. Gallagher, age 54, who for 29 years has resided in Duluth, died yesterday morning at his home, 2412 West Fifth Street, of Brights disease and hardening of the arteries. He had been ailing for about two years but was confined to his bed for only five weeks. He was a pioneer woodsman in the northwest but 18 years ago was injured in a railroad accident in the Duluth yards and since that time has at various times, operated grocery stores in the city.

He was born in Kemptville, Ont., and married Mary A. Whalen at the age of 24. He lived in Wausau, Wis., seven years before moving to Duluth. He is survived by his wife and one son, Edward; two sisters, Mrs. John Wetterhahn of Duluth, and Mrs. Roscoe Wade of Herman, N.Y.; three brothers, Edward, Thomas and Michael Gallagher all of Kemptville, Ohio. Funeral services will take place at St. Clements church Twenty-first avenue West and Third street tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Interment will be in Calvary cemetery.



WILLIAM IRA PRINCE 1913-1917

(From the Wednesday, November 12, 1941 Duluth News-Tribune)

W.I.Prince, Ex-Mayor, Dies At 74

A prominent banking official, Republican and civic leader, William Ira Prince, 74 years old, died early yesterday at his residence, 16 East St. Andrews street. He was Duluth's first mayor under the commission form of government.

Born in Camden, Ohio, Oct. 11, 1867, he was educated in schools at Amherst, Ohio, and Oberlin Business university. He worked in banks at Oberlin and Escanaba, Mich., before accepting the cashier's post of the Bessemer, Mich., First National bank.

After serving three terms as mayor of Bessemer he came to Duluth and assisted in organizing the City National bank, of which he was the director and cashier a number of years. He was a vice president and a president of the Minnesota Bankers' association during the time.

He was instrumental in establishing the commission form of government in Duluth in 1913 and served four years as the first mayor under commission rule.

He was president of the Duluth Commercial club, forerunner of the Duluth Chamber of Commerce, in 1909-10 and served as its executive secretary from 1917 to 1921. He was a member of the Minnesota State Safety commission under Governor J. A. A. Burnquist.

One-time director of the Christmas Seal campaign, he was a member of the St. Louis County Health association. He was active in the Duluth and Eighth district GOP organizations.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday in Endion Methodist church. Surviving are his wife; two sons, William I. Prince, Jr., St. Johns, Newfoundland, and Milton H. Prince, Duluth; a grandson, Robb Lincoln Prince, Duluth; a brother, Clarence G. Prince, New York City; three sisters, Mrs. Harry R. Hazel, Cleveland, Ohio, and Miss Sara Prince and Mrs. Ira Shaw, both of Oberlin, Ohio.



JOHN B. SUTPHIN 1886-1889

(From the Thursday, July 16, 1908 Duluth News-Tribune)

JOHN B. SUTPHIN, EX-MAYOR AND PIONEER, PASSES AWAY

Death Comes After Long Illness, Which Became Acute Three Weeks Ago -- Sufferer Unconscious Since Tuesday -- Deceased Prominent in Promoting Welfare of Duluth.

John B. Sutphin, ex-mayor, well known politician and pioneer resident of Duluth, passed away at the home of his son, Ralph Sutphin, 318 Third avenue west, at 9:05 last night.

For over 24 hours he had been in a comatose condition and the physicians had abandoned hope of a change for the better. His son and daughter-in-law were at his bedside with a number of intimate friends when death came.

He had been suffering with kidney trouble for a long period, and nearly three years ago was forced to go to a sanitarium in Michigan for treatment. He returned to Duluth much improved and was not troubled seriously again until three weeks ago.

His condition became worse rapidly, and for the past three days his life hung in the balance. Dr. J. A. McCuen and Dr. Graham were at his bedside almost constantly, but were unable to bring relief. Unconsciousness overcome the sufferer Tuesday evening. He passed away in slumber.

The funeral will be held Friday evening at Elks' hall at 8 o'clock under the auspices of the local order of Elks. The body will lie in state at the hall from 10 o'clock in the morning until the services, when it will be taken to the night train for Minneapolis, where interment will be made in the family lot.

Senator Daugherty's Tribute.

"I was deeply pained to hear of the death of J. B. Sutphin," said Former State Senator J. B. Daugherty. "I had known him 35 years, and during the last 30 years I have known him intimately. A strong friendship existed between us.

"I was a member of the common council of Duluth when Mr. Sutphin was first elected mayor, and that was at a time when the foundations, as one may say, of this city were being laid. I am sure that H. C. Kendall, Captain John Monaghan, H. R. Armstrong and other of the council of the Sutphin administration, will certify to what I say when I declare that Mayor Sutphin was one of the best executives that this city has ever had. He devoted his entire time and thought to the interests of the city. His administration of the affairs of the city was honest and competent.

"Mr. Sutphin had a well balanced mind and much executive ability. He had much to do with re-establishing the credit of Duluth in taking up old bond issues that had been repudiated, in starting our splendid sewer system, the fire department and other matters that were in the nature of establishing the future city on a proper foundation.

"The people of Duluth some day will realize even better than now the great benefit of his administration, which was not temporary, but generally of a permanent character."

He Was a Pioneer.

John B. Sutphin was one of the oldest residents of the head of the lakes in point of residence, and likewise one of the best known and most popular. He came to the head of the lakes when he was about 20 years of age, and at the time of his death he was about 61 years old. He has been in Duluth or near the western end of Lake Superior for at least 40 years. During his earlier years in this region Mr. Sutphin was engaged in general trade on the south shore, and was much at Ontonagan and Houghton, but his headquarters for all of the time he has been in this region has been Duluth.

At the time of his death Mr. Sutphin was state weighmaster of the grain department. He was appointed by Governor Van Sant about seven years ago and has held the office continuously ever since. He was a painstaking and competent official, and discharged the duties of the office with the same care and consideration as he would conduct a personal enterprise. Mr. Sutphin has been a life-long Republican. He was elected mayor of Duluth in 1886, and held the office three terms. The Sutphin administration is well remembered as one during which the city enjoyed much prosperity and he has been mentioned again for the office in more recent years. He has always taken a very active part in Republican politics in this city and section, was a man of genial disposition and good address, and had a very large circle of friends.

Inclined Toward Big Affairs.

Mr. Sutphin's business ventures were not always successful, but they were always of interest and he was inclined to large affairs. One of the most interesting chapters in his business career was when he was associated with Marquis DeMores in the packing business. It was intended at the time to build up a vast packing industry, and it did flourish for a time, but conditions changed and it dwindled and was abandoned. Later Mr. Sutphin engaged in the packing industry here on his own account, and he built the plant at the West End now owned and operated by Elliott & Co.

Mr. Sutphin was a native of New Jersey. He is survived by a son, Ralph, of this city, and a sister, Mrs. Cherry. Rena Vivienne, the singer, is a niece of the late Mr. Sutphin.

Few men have enjoyed a wider circle of friends in Duluth than Mr. Sutphin, and his demise will cause much regret.



Appeared in the Duluth News - Tribune on July 6, 1927

Thomas Kuroski, 74, a pioneer resident of Duluth, died at his home, R.F.D. No. 4, Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Kuroski came to Duluth 42 years ago. He is survived by his wife, (Ursula Niezgodka Kuroski), six daughters, Mrs. Ida Conrad, Mrs. Louise Czapinski/Swapinski, Mrs. Mary Giernot, Mrs. Nellie Kolske, Mrs. Anna Zywicki and Miss Agnes Kuroski; four sons, Michael, Bruno, Louis and Peter; 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The body is at Grady's mortuary pending funeral arrangements.

Transcription of an obituary for Thomas Kuroski, a Duluth Pioneer - submitted by Barbara Rush - bkrush@cox.net



VESPASIAN SMITH 1873-1874

(From the Thursday, October 12, 1897 Duluth News-Tribune)

DEATH OF DR. SMITH

ONE OF DULUTH'S OLDEST SETTLERS SINKS IN HIS LAST SLEEP

Came to the Head of Lake Superior Forty Years Ago -- Served as Mayor of Duluth, as Collector of Customs Under Three Presidents and as Member of the State Board of Health.

Dr. Vespasian Smith, one of Duluth's pioneer settlers, died last night at the home of his son, Frank B. Smith, at the advanced age of 79 years. Dr. Smith has been in ill health for the past

year, and during the last five or six weeks has been confined to the house. Several days ago it became apparent that he was failing rapidly, and his death was not entirely unexpected.

During his lifetime, Mr. Smith was one of the most prominent men in northern Minnesota. He was born in Ohio, and came to the Northwest in the early 50s. He first located at Bayfield, Wis., and while there served a term as government Indian agent. A few years later he removed to Duluth, and at once became a prominent figure in local politics. He served a term as mayor of the city, and was afterward appointed to the office of collector of customs for this port. He held this office for a number of years, serving under three different administrations. He was later appointed a member of the state board of health. He has not been engaged in the active practice of medicine for a number of years. He was a member of the Palestine Masonic lodge.

Dr. Smith's wife survives him, and also his son, Frank B. Smith, and daughter, Mrs. Dr. McCormick, and a brother that resides in St. Paul. He was the father of Will Smith, who died last February.

The funeral arrangements had not been decided on last night, but will be announced later.



Appeared in the Duluth Herald, Nov. 29, 1935

"Mrs. Mohaupt, Survivor of Indian Raid, Succumbs at 81."

Mrs. Susanna Mohaupt, 81, pioneer Minnesota woman who was one of the few persons to escape the tomahawks

of Indians in the New Ulm, Minn., massacre of 1862, died late Wednesday in her home, 103 North Fifty-fourth avenue west. Born in Chicago, Mrs. Mohaupt was taken to New Ulm by her parents when she was 11 months old. She was just a little girl at the time of the massacre.

Her family escaped through a warning given to them by a friendly Indian who had been fed by Mrs.

Mohaupt's mother. The latter had given some of the Indians freshly baked bread when they said they were

unable to get game for food. The family was scattered during the outbreak and reunited many days later at

Fort Snelling.

While their home was one of the few in the settlement that was not razed by fire during the massacre, they never went back, moving to St. Paul. Mrs. Mohaupt came to Duluth 30 years ago and had resided here since.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Henry J. Sanford, Oak Park, Minn.; five sons, C.B., Seattle; W.F. and F.D., Duluth; H.C., Grand Rapids, Minn.; and Albert A., Chisholm, Minn.; two sisters, Mrs. Catherine Tuttle, St. Paul, and Mrs. Henry Seidenkranz, Milwaukee, and 30 grandchildren."

Submitted by Lara Lynn - ladyhawk00@yahoo.com

