Pasties, Beer, Revolution, and God

Immigrant Miners and Their Communities on the Marquette Iron Range, 1900-1930
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Charge</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Smith</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Wallace</td>
<td>Non-support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Shampine</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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<td>Peter DeVought</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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<td>Joseph LaValle</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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<td>John Dushane</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Dushane</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law (sale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Bourdage</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desire Bussiere</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl Clark</td>
<td>Receiving stolen goods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Savonski</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theodore Roberts</td>
<td>Larceny</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effie L. Pengilly</td>
<td>Divorce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerdin &amp; Gerdin</td>
<td>Practicing without License</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Stagliano</td>
<td>Possession and Sale of Liquor</td>
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<td>Emma Dettman</td>
<td>Forgery</td>
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<td>Putro Enzono</td>
<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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<td>Violation of Liquor Law</td>
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The Failure of Cornish Pasties: Marquette Iron Range, 1890 - 1900

- **Cornish miners** began arriving after 1880 (eschewed open-pit mining). Never more than 25% of miners. 1909 dropped to 13%. Mining foremen, captains, etc.....

- **Depression 1893** (workforce dropped from 17,000 to 3,500, causing massive out migration)

- **Strike of 1895** (3,000 miners; state militia; independent union led by Cornish)

- **Strike of 1899** (2,700 miners; split between Cornish and Finnish miners)
• Industrial Workers of the World, 1905, (IWW) and the Western Federation of Miners (WFM), 1893

• Socialist Party of America. Won over 900,000 votes 1912 and 1920 (E. Debs ran for president from prison)

• Bolshevik revolution in Russia (1917)

• Seattle General Strike (1919)

• Anarchist bombings (Sacco and Vanzetti, 1920)

• Palmer Raids (1919) 6,000 arrested and 556 deportations
Revolution: Hard Rock Mining Labor Wars, 1900 – 1930

- **Colorado Labor Wars, 1903-1904.** Led by the WFM. Involved thousands of miners and intervention by the state militia, US Army, Pinkertons

- **Mesabi Iron Range Strikes, 1907** (WFM), 1916 (IWW). Struck for better pay and 8 hour day.

- **Copper Country Strike, 1913-1914** (WFM, IWW. Last 265 days)

- **Butte Montana Labor Riots, 1914** (Conflict between IWW and WFM for control. Involved blacklisting of Finnish miners)

- **Anaconda Road Massacre, 1920** (IWW’s last major effort in the western copper mines)
Marquette Iron Range Labor Strife, 1900-1946

Why?
• **Martin Hendrickson** (1900), NYC editor of the “American Worker.” Renowned socialist agitator. “Atheist, anti-church, horned devil.”

• **Large population decline**: 13,255 (1900) to 9,238 (1930). 31 percent

• Foreign born population decreased 53 percent

• Finnish born population decreased 29.2 percent (1910-1920)

• More diversified economy (Gossard)

• Nine-tenths of population lived scattered in and around downtown area.

• Single family units accounted for 80% residential structures. Multiple dwellings, 2%

Forced the “more adventurous men to seek employment elsewhere, and so has steadied and sobered the life of the community” – Joe R. Whitaker (1931)
Settled Communities: Negaunee

- Population decline: 8,460 (1910) to 6,552 (1930). 23 percent
- Ratio of men to women: 1.9 (1910) to 1.3 (1930)
- Foreign born: 47.6 percent (1910) to 33 percent (1930)
- A culture of “self-sufficiency.” Part-time Farmers. 3-6 percent of miners farmed land. CCI opened plots of 15,000 square feet to “truck” farming
Community Cohesion: The “Locations”

Bancroft “Location”

Spring Street “Location”
Finnish Immigration to Marquette County, 1905-1920

- 1880s “First Wave” (Rural) of Finnish immigration.
- 1904 “Second Wave” (Urban) Russification and political repression.

Marquette Iron Range **No Second Wave**:
- 80% (550) green region (rural)
- 20% (138) red region (urban)
- No one from Helsinki
Decline in Finnish Born Population, 1900-1930

1910 Population Characteristics

- 39.8% of foreign born population
- 57% miners (Ishpeming)
- 55% miners (Negaunee)
Immigration from South and Central Europe, 1900-1930

- Italian immigration begins to increase significantly in 1890
- (1910) Italians comprise 16% of miners on the Marquette Iron Range
- (1910) 87% identified as miners. Mostly labors and trammers
Revolution Failed: the Battle for the Negaunee Labor Temple, 1913

• “The Socialistic Finn”
• The Labor Temple (1910)
• The Finnish Socialist Federation (1906)
• “Anarcho-Syndicalism” (William Risto) vs. “Parliamentarism” (Frank Aaltonen)
Counter - Revolution

Finnish Republican Club. 350 members
God: Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

- 1910 Membership: 2,284 (45% of Finn population)
- 1920 Membership: 2,994 (65% of Finn population)
- Replicate the Church of Finland in the Lake Superior region. Traditionalist, conservative, and favored a paternalistic church and clergy
- Many prominent Finnish business men participated in the formation, 1899
- Actively adopted a strategy of accommodation with corporate capitalism. Vehemently anti-socialist.
- 240 people signed anti-socialist resolution following 1907 Mesabi Strike
Comparison of Suomi Synod Lutheran Church Membership, 1905-1920
CCI’s Corporate Paternalism

- William Mather / “Progressive Era” (Speech to the Lake Superior Iron Mining Association, 1898) Skip to Potty Letters
- Low rental housing and support for ownership (CCI owned 600 houses)
- Community clubhouses and beautification awards
- Pension Plan (1909)
- Establishment of Gwinn as a model company town (1907) Gwinn Records
- Company sponsored health care Nurses Reports
  - Visiting doctor and nurse program
  - Company maintained hospital (Ishpeming, 1918)
- Company Initiated Safety Program (1911)
The Potty Letters

The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co.

Office in New York Rockefeller Building Cleveland, Ohio

August 28th, 1900.

MR. W. C. DUNBAR, Agent.

I make the following suggestions:

1. Do not arrange the six closets on each side of the toilet room to be cast out of one piece of earthenware with a trap at one end and flushing two for each set.

2. I propose to have the heads of the sinks cast in the form of a flusher, and instead of using a separate tank, have the water used flush the heads of the closets.

3. The water used for flushing the closets should be taken from the waste water from the kitchen and other departments.

4. The closets should be made of cast iron and the traps of earthenware.

5. The water used for flushing the closets should be taken from a common tank, and the water from the kitchen and other departments should be used for flushing the heads of the closets.

6. The closets should be made of cast iron and the traps of earthenware.

7. The water used for flushing the closets should be taken from a common tank, and the water from the kitchen and other departments should be used for flushing the heads of the closets.

8. The closets should be made of cast iron and the traps of earthenware.

9. The water used for flushing the closets should be taken from a common tank, and the water from the kitchen and other departments should be used for flushing the heads of the closets.

Yours very truly,

W. C. DUNBAR
President.
Hard Work: CCI Fatalities, 1898 - 1940

Total CCI Fatalities: 321 (1926 does not include Barnes-Hecker)
Total Marquette Iron Range Fatalities: 675
Mesabi Range Death Rate 7.5 / 1000
## Hard Work: Deaths by Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Finnish</th>
<th>Swede</th>
<th>Irish</th>
<th>American</th>
<th>Italian</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900-1909</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910-1919</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-1929</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-1940</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Hard Work: Reason for Poor Safety Record (Prior to 1911)

• Poor discipline in the mines
• **Contract System** (Cornish practice) – Company paid a work team according to output. Worked fast, little oversight.
• **Demand** for labor greater than supply (inexperienced miners)
• **Lack of laws** forcing compensation for fatalities
• Employee **carelessness**
Cliffs Shaft Mine: Average Daily Wages and Cost of Production, 1909-1920
The Second Klan “Movement”

• Inspired, in part, by Thomas Dixon’s novel, *The Clansman* (1905), and D.W. Griffith’s film *Birth of a Nation* (1915)
• Founded in Atlanta, Georgia (1915)
• Nativist, xenophobic, petty nationalism
• Enjoyed wide-spread support, especially in the mid-West and Western states. By 1925, the KKK reputedly had 4.5 million members.
• A successful “third party”

KKK March on Washington, 1925.
Protestant Hegemony

- Large influx of immigration from southern and central Europe
- Virulent anti-Catholicism and anti-Semitism
- Allegiance to papal authority
- Prohibition violation, sexual immorality, threats to religion and “traditional family values.”
Anti-Immigration Legislation

- **The Quota Law of 1921** restricted annual immigration to approximately 350,000 persons. Limited annual immigration from any one country to 3% of 1910 numbers.
- **Immigration Act of 1924.** By 1930, annual immigration limited to 150,000. Disproportionate by ethnicity and country of origin. Asians completely excluded.
  - Northern European: 86.5%
  - Southern / Central Europe: 11.2%