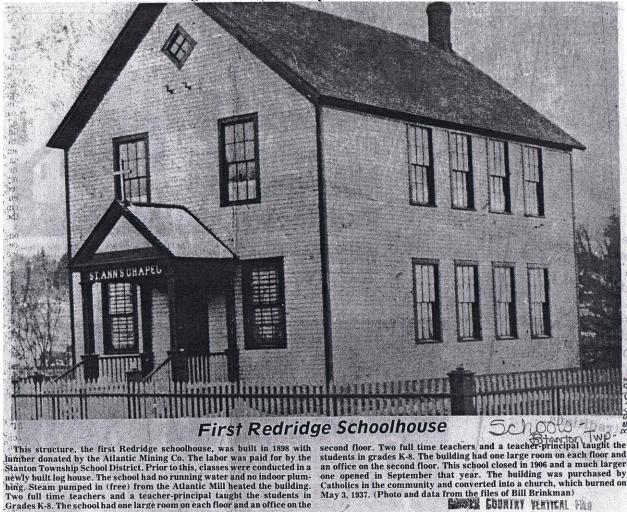
Redridge School. December 21, 1972 it closed.

T55N R35W SW1/4 of NW1/4 in Section 21 in Redridge. 1898-



There were 3 Redridge Schools, but only one at a time.

This photo below came from a postcard prior to 1910 of the schoolhouse in Redridge. Hard to believe this building still stands in Redridge. It comes to us from Bob Bice who was kind enough to send me a CD filled with wonderful postcards from the Keweenaw. Bob's father went to this school until the 6th grade until he had to quit school and start working at the Baltic Mill in Redridge. Bob also had the privilege of riding the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railroad as a boy and a while ago he sent me a pass from that railroad, first one I had ever seen and I can't thank him enough as the A&LS is my second favorite after the Copper Range. Thank you so much Bob for your contributions to this site and please stop back as I will be displaying all the postcards he sent, many of which I have never seen before. Kevin Musser.



Bill Brinkman shared that the School closed December of 1972 as it was a fire hazard. Students came to the new Earl Bree Holman Elementary School on today's Holman Road.

The Redridge School was the center of all administrative work. It housed the offices of the school board and the superintendent and 4 large classrooms. It averaged 160 students each year until the 1930's. In 1930, Redridge enrollment was down to 60 students and two teachers.. Consolidation of other rural Schools followed... rural schools closed and students bussed to Redridge.

The following is taken from the Redridge Reunion newsletter:

The first school of Redridge was in 1892 in the Saltzer home and was constructed of logs. It had a single room and housed 8 grades. (1897 Polk Directory shares: Miss Mahon and CP Hulce were school teachers in Redridge.)

(The Daily Mining Gazette shares this picture of the first Redridge Schoolhouse built in 1898 with lumber donated by the Atlantic Mining Co. The labor was paid for by the Township School Board. The school had no running water and no indoor plumbing. Steam pumped in (free) from the Atlantic Mill heated the building. Two full time teachers and a teacher-principal taught the students in grades K-8. The school had one large room on each floor and an office on the second floor.

A teacher in 1901was Rose Miller.

This school was closed in 1906 and a much larger one open in September of 1907. The old school was purchased by Catholics and converted into a church which burned on May 3, 1937).

(1903 Polk Directory of Redridge says that Daniel Leary is principal of school. Rose Miller is teacher.)

Bill Brinkman collection shares: 1905 teacher was Mary L. Healy 2nd grade. 1909 teachers were: Rosella Ryan of grade 4, Victor Wisti and Lawrence Novell were teachers in 1909 in 5th grade.

Redridge's hey- day was between 1901 and 1912. The population was 1,100 people.

The current Redridge School was built in 1905 by Fred Ulseth, a contractor from Calumet for \$25,000. Ulseth bought the Nels Burkman home on the curve by Schlott's Creek in Oskar.

It was heated free from the Atlantic Stamp Mill exhaust steam from the heads for 4 years. The steam pip was 10 feet above ground and held in place by tripod shaped beans that carried the three inch insulated pipe to the school. It entered the school in the rear and was connected in each room with a radiator system that sported an automatic valve for a many sectioned radiator. (The Redridge school furnace was installed in 1911 because the Atlantic mill was scheduled to close the following year and thus there would be no more steam from the Mill for heating purposes.)

The school then housed 170 children from K - 8th grade.

Before 1912, oil lamps provided lighting for the Redridge School. There were 4 in each room, and each lamp was on a little shelf wedged I the corners of each room. Behind each lamp was a reflector. This system stayed until Baltic Mining Company ordered its electricians to wire the school for electric lighting. Electricians were Anton Gabe, John Lapine, and Alfred Kenel. Each room then had a single clear 200 watt bulb hung from the center of every room ceiling. In 1935 the state ordered the school to have fluorescent lighting with a minimum of lumen seconds. In 1941, the first fluorescent lights were installed.

Teachers in 1916 were Ella Crowley, Gladys Davey, and G. Stoddard.

A school train ran until 1942 when it carried its last student Violet Brickman. The school train would take high school students from Redridge and Beacon Hill to Painesdale.

Mr. William Brickman served 15 years at Redridge School as teacher, principal and superintendent. He was Superintendent from 1947-1950 but preferred teaching.

Redridge was a school of K -10th grades until about 1952 and then it was a K-8.

IN 1969 it was considered in poor condition and an unsafe fire hazard. The school closed Dec. 21, 1972 and bussed to the new EB Holman School in Liminga.

Polk Directory of 1903-4 says principal of Redridge was Daniel Leary. Rose Miller was a teacher at Redridge that same time.

One outstanding characteristic of the Redridge School was its high flying flag above the building, with the pole anchored in the attic of the school. In 1917 the rope that held the outstanding specimen of a flag broke. Since it was the end of WW1, help was sought to get somebody to climb the pole and insert a new rope in the pulley. The only one who volunteered at the time was George Morin. He climbed the pole carrying the rope in his teeth, inserted the rope in the pulley, and descended into the attic, back to safety. The beautiful flag waved majestically until the end of World War 2 when the rope wore out and broke again. Help was sought again. The only one to dare climb the pole was Bill Brinkman's brother Alvin, who had just arrived home from the South Pacific at the end of WW2. He climbed the pole after getting up on the roof and without the benefit of safety devices and with the rope in his teeth, he climbed to the top of the pole, put the rope through the pulley, and in addition put some grease on the pulley. While this as going on, a teacher viewing the climb fainted and passed out. However Alvin descended safely and was proud to see the new flag waving above the school. Height did not seem to affect him.



Redridge School with Ernest Raisanen by flag pole.

School Board Minutes:

July 1941. – Met at Freda Beacon Hill School Chas. Alaniva, Pres.

- Engels Sect'y read letter received from Copper Range Railroad Co. through a personal interview w/ their Mr. Wm. Barth advising us to try to establish bus transportation and convey our high school students to Houghton instead of on train to Painesdale. School board named committee of 3 to investigate and formulate plans on this transportation situation. Then advise board and Mr. Schacht, Pres of Copper Range and Mr. Wescott of CR railroad Co.

August 12, 1941 - Discussion on transportation of pupils to Houghton High School instead of Painesdale due to school train and railroad being in financial loss. Wm. Ruohonen will transport all High Schoolers to Houghton High School. Negotiate with Wm. Ruohonen for a 3 year contract so he can purchase a new 45 passenger bus. J. Martilla driver now \$44 /month.

June 8, 1942 - Inspect Oskar, Liminga Redridge and Freda heating and plumbing

and install 2-30 section radiators @Redridge and Freda BH.

August 1942 - As no teachers now seem available for Onnela or Perala School it now appears that these students will be schooled at Redridge and Heikkinen.

1948 November – approval of hot lunch and prep of dining room and kitchen to be started immediately. 12 cents a meal. December, Mrs. Kolehmainen and Mrs. Hyttynen are cooks.

1949 Feb. - On account of storms and other emergency calls Redridge should have a phone installed .

1950 January – Fire Exit created in basement of Redridge.

1950 Feb. – contact township board for information regarding rerouting road in Redridge to allow for playground.

May 1950 – Playground equipment ordered for \$1250 to be divided between 4 schools in proportion to attendance.

July 1952 – Switched teachers – Mrs. Bingham to Liminga from Redridge and Mr. Mackie to Redridge from Liminga.

1958 August - 9th and 10th grade books sell to Houghton and Jeffers. Move what is useable from Liminga to Redridge.

Isak Hannula from Jacob/Jack Ruohonen document:

Isak born in 1854 in Kittla where he married Maria Ala. Came to Calumet in 1889 and after a while moved to Oskar where he worked in lumbering for several years for Eliassen. They then moved to Redridge where they lived until they died. The wife died in 1924 and he in 1926. Their son **Alex** was born in Finland and lives in Redridge with his family working as a **school caretaker**.

Don Heikkila remembers there was a garage across from the Redridge School front entrance on the East Side. This must be the garage for storage of the bus.

Mel Anderson shares: Alvar Eilola, Bill Brinkman and Tarmo Maatala were my Redridge teachers. Julie Heltunen Long (daughter of Able and Matilda Heltunen of Edgemere) was another teacher at some time.

Don Heikkila student in mid 1950's shares: Teachers at Redridge: Mrs. Marriel Butler 54/55, Mrs. Donald Marquardt 55/56, Mrs. Alice Lahti, Mrs. Elizabeth Hooper later married Merrill, Mrs. Pearl Polglase, Mrs. Irene Fountain, Mr. John Kempainen (shop teacher), Ms. Sundra Peterson, Mrs. Linda Lehto, Mr. Bert Maki, Mrs. Ina Korpi, Mr. Medline, Mr. Bill Brickman music.

Mr. Russell Fountain was superintendent.

Local children with me from Kindergarten were: Ray Niemi, Sanford Marttila, and William Raisanen. Sanford died in car accident in 1966, rest are alive today (2008).



Read about the Redridge School students reunite Daily Mining Gazette article Friday August 1, 1997... the first all class reunion.

Redridge Rhythm Riders a musical aggregation made debut Nov. 15, 1961. Director Bill Brinkman.

From notes in vertical file at Houghton Co. Historical Museum: 1964. Ernest Wisti was Supt and teacher at Heikkinen. Wm. Brinkman was Principal. Teachers were Cyril Bingham, Beatrice Merrill, Pearl Polglase. Hot lunch was 22 cents. 300 quarts of blueberries and strawberries were frozen for lunch use.

A teacher in 2nd grade 1905-06 was Mary L. Healy. A teacher in Grade 4 from 1909-10 was Missy Rosella Ryan.



A rare photo of a CRRR school train at Mill Mine Jct. in June 1942, with coaches #53 and #56.

See section on school train.

Teachers in Redridge in 1910 census time.

Annie Schwetake (sp?). Age 40. Boards with Minister Fred Drighton (sp?).
Emily Brown. Age 25. Boards with James Jilbert.
Minnie Parsons (sp?). Age 21. Boards with Joseph Lovell.
Rosala Ryan (sp?) age 26. Boards with Joseph Lovell.
James Caswell (sp?) age 28. Boards with Joseph Lovell.

Bill said he attended High School to Redridge on a bus driven by Jack Kemppainen. He said a boy with choppers had to hold the kerosene heater upright on the bouncy road so the bus could stay warm. There was 1 seat on each side of the aisle.

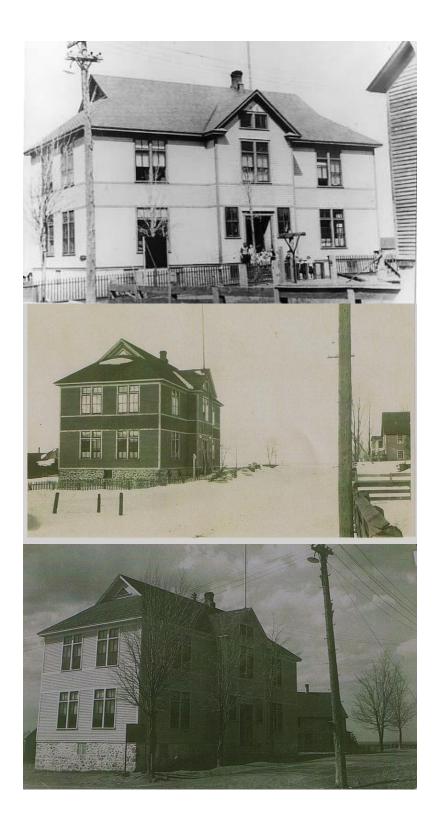
Sisters Charlotte Smith- English and Corinne Smith- Woodall share: Mom (Anna Nellie Heikkila-Smith)(Mrs. Guy Smith) taught elementary school in Redridge from 1929 to 1939. The family lived in Redridge. Lee Burkman shares: Nellie Smith was my 2nd grade teacher in 1929.

1930 census has teacher Elizabeth Schutz boarding Redridge resident.

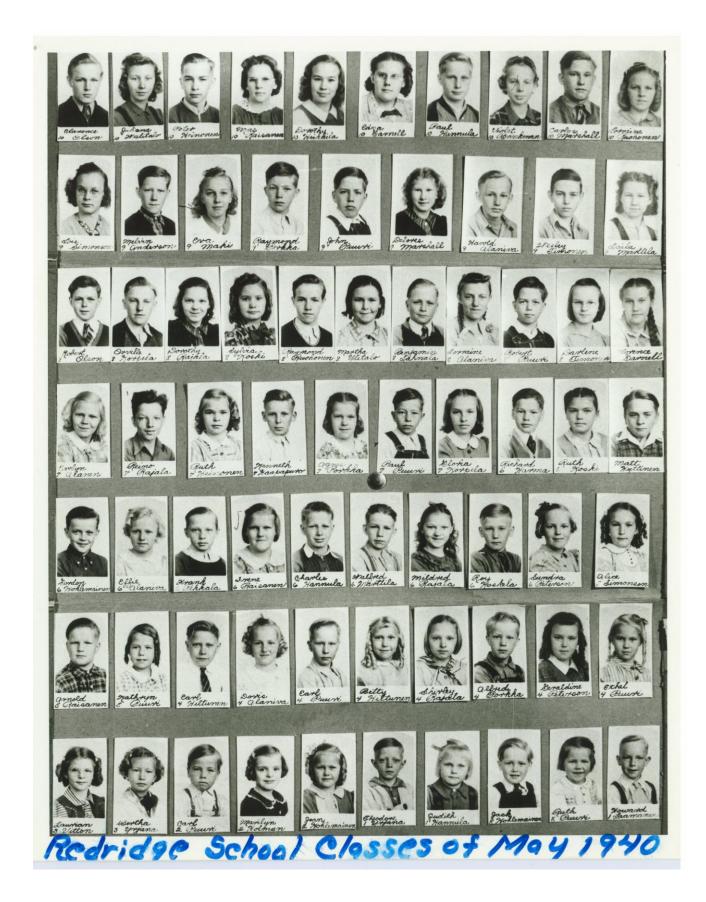
Qualified teacher October 1, 1930 William Brinkman. Expires June 1931. (Author knows it was longer time he taught!).

1962. Redridge School

Principal W. Brickman and band director, and 6-8 Pearl Polglase K -1, Elizabeth Merrill 2-3, Katherine Bingham 4-5.







REUNION ATTENDEES - MEDRIDGE 14917

Alanen Alanen/Leikala Alanen/Moehrke Alaniya Alaniva/Faller Allen/Morin Anderson Anderson Anderson Anderson Anderson Anderson Anderson/Abbott Anderson/Erva Anderson/Hyrkas Anderson/Kinnunen Anderson/Maki Anderson/Markham Belkonen Boh janen /Huwel Bohjanen/Raffaelli Brinkman Burkman Burkman/Cooney Burkman/Guilbault Burkman/Patterson Chappell Coponen Coponen Coponen Coponen/Barikus Coponen/Keteri Coponen/LaMothe Coponen/Riutta Dunstan Dunstan Dunstan/Heinonen Dunstan/Loukus Dunstan/Peterson Durocher Durocher Durocher Durocher/Papke Durocher/Persha Ekonen Ekonen/Gilmore Ekonen/Lindeman Erva Erva Erva Erva/Haapapuro Erva/Laajala Erva/Seppanen

Harold Evelyn Violet Harold Folk Lorraine Barbara John Larry Mary Marvin Melvin Richard Kathy Louise Karen Helen Mildred Margaret Alan Shirley Sally Alvin Paul Sandra Debbie Barbara Jean Mary jane David Doug William Gladys Virgie Verna Gloria Jack Jeff Cynthia Chris Carolyn Clarence Clyde Stan Janet Darlene Martin Sarah Eva Dennis Jennifer Milton Marilyn Susan Joanne

Evans Duane Faller Cheryl Faller/Kurtti Debbie Daniel Folk/Nuttall Louise Fraki Ernest Fraki Melvin Frandy /Junttonen Kathleen (Cookie) Franti/Hannula Joanne Franti/Honkanen Sharon Garnell Louis Garnell William Garnell/Tuomi Suzanna Haapapuro David Hannula/Juntunen Judy Hannula/Peters Edith Harma Jerry Harma/Durham Maria Harris Michae1 Harris Patrick Hautala Bert Heikkila Robert Heikkila Donald Heinonen/Maki Ruth Heltunen/Haapapuro Joanne Heltunen/Sharrar Judu Hiltunen/Booth Eunice Honkanen Jerry Honkanen/Brey Marlene Huuki/Olson Ethel Huuki/White Elma Hy ttinen MaryEllen Hyttinen. Matt Hyttinen Clude Hyttinen/Hogback Barbara Hyttinen/LaCasse Ruth Martha Hyttinen/Stone Jampsa Steven Johnson Richard Johnson/Gorman Shirley Jones/St. Amour Jeanne Juntikka John Juntunen Donald Juntunen Tony Juntunen/Gaddis Sherri Juntunen/Turner Connie Melvin Jurva Kahkonen Wesley Kangas Richard Kangas Wesley Kangas/Harjala Shirley Kangas/Zenner Gloria Myrna Kemppainen/Davis

Kemppainen/MoMahon Sylvia Keteri Larry Keturi/Schirmer Sharon Kitti/Cox Dorothy Knuuttila Raumond Knuuttila/Juntti Regina Koivu Raymond Koivu/Martin Margaret Kolehmainen Gordon Kolehmainen Floyd Kolehmainen Jack Kolehmainen Robert Kolehmainen/DeMars Jean Donna Kommes/Karru Kommes/Swetich Doreen Korpela Doreen Korpela Linda Mark Korpela Korpela/Kangas Luana Sheila Korpela/Lehtola Korpela/Simonson Cindy Korpela/Simula Lorri Koskela Gary Koskela Glenn Koskela Robert Koskela William Koskela/Heikka Dar lene Koskela/Johnson Ruth Koskela/Kolehmainen Betty Dorothy Koskela/Sten Koski Sylvia Lahnala/Collins Laura Lahnala/Kuusisto Phyllis Lahnala/Marttila Juliana Lampinen Anthony Lampinen Earl Lampinen Kim Lampinen Wesley Lampinen/Allread Leona Sandra Lampinen/Armstrong Lampinen/Beers Gail Lampinen/Coponen Anne Lampinen/Ek Joann Tom Lantto Walter Lantto Lantto Wesley Lantto/Kommes Shirley Gloria Lantto/Wakeham Larson Gordon Janet Larson Peter Larson Larson/Kangas Margaret Larson/Massie Mary

REGISTERED REDRIDGE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Lois

Kolehmainen Jack Robert Kolehmainen Kolehmainen/DeMars Jean Kommes/Karry Donna Doreen Kommes/Swetich Korpela Doreen Korpela Linda Mark Korpela Orval Korpela Korpela/Kangas Luana Korpela/Lehtola Sheila Cindy Korpela/Simonson Korpela/Simula Lorri Koskela Gary Glenn Koskela Robert Koskela Koskela Terry William Koskela Koskela/Heikka Darlene Koskeia/Isola Bonnie Koskela/Johnson Ruth Koskela/Kolehmainen Betty Koskela/Sten Dorothy Sulvia Koski Kuru Douglas Kuru/Keindl Elsie Kuru/Raisanen Alice Beatrice Kuru/Sutinen Roland Kyllonen Lahnala/Collins Laura Lahnala/Kuusisto Phyllis Juliana Lahnala/Marttila Lampinen Anthony Bernard Lampinen Duane Lampinen Eari Lampinen Kim Lampinen Marcella Lampinen Ismpinen Wesley Lampinen/Allread Leona Lampinen/Armstrong Sandra Lampinen/Beers Gai1 Lampinen/Blust Sherry Lampinen/Coponen Anne Lampinen/Ek Joann Lampinen/Elliott Judy Lampinen/Mullymaki Jody īom Lantto Walter Lantto Lantto Weeley

Lantto/Butkovich Lantto/Kommes Lantto/Wakeham Larson Larson Larson Larson Larson Larson/Kangas Larson/Massie Larson/Nordstrom Larson/Rimpela Latvala Latvala Latvala/Belkonen Laurn Lepisto Lexson Lexson Lexson Lexson/Folk Lexson/Juleff Lexson/Ovist Lexson/Voght Linna/Niemi Little Lukkarila/McLean Luoma Luoma Luoma Luoma Luoma Luoma/Brandt Luoma/Jenkins Majurin/Kovalainen Makela Makela/Bussiere Maki Markham Markham Markham Markham Markham Markham/Bonen Markham/Peterson Markham/Wirtanen Marttila Marttila Marttila/Evans Marttila/Hyttinen

Shirley Gloria Donald Gordon Janet Peter Raymond Margaret Mary Judith Kathryn Raymond William Jean David David David Tammy Willie Adeline Grace Betty Laura Lorelei Mark Helen David Elsie Fred Leonard Paul Jacqueline June Jean John Maila Wilbert Harold Michael Robert Timothy Todd Jouce Patricia Michele Leo Raymond Laila Ellen

Marttila/Lupan Marttila/Paananen Messner Moilanen/Burkman Morin Morin Morin Morin Morin/Derwin Morin/Desautelle Morin/Domitrovich Morin/Kaufman Morin/Marchand Morin/Pawlik Morris Nakkula Niemi Niemi Niemi Niemi Niemi/Burge Niemi/Forsman Niemi/Harden Nissen/Brown Olson Olson Ovist Ovist Ovist Ovist Ovist Ovist Ovist/Lambert Ovist/Peltier Paavo Paavo Paavo Paavo Paavo/Hruska Paavo/McKie Paavo/Milde Paavo/Prime Paskvan Patana Patana/Ruohonen Peters/Swift Peterson Peterson Peterson Peterson

Hanna Linda Elias F. Leona Douglas James Joe/Deceased Paulette Margaret Barbara Janet Mary Lucille Tina Glen Dana Ken Michael Raymond Stanley Phyllis Kathleen Arlene Anita Clarence Robert Gene Jerry Jim Joe Robert Timothu Diane Sheila Charles David Robert William Sandy Bette Patti Marilyn Dennis Clyde Barbara Marolyn David Donald Hubert Robert

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REGISTERED REDRIDGE SCHOOL ALUMNI

Elsa

Jim

Keith

Sherwood

Ken

Kim

Kelly

Dan

Irving

Mark

Gail

Jim

Beth

Cheryl

Dapper

Fred

Karyn

Kevin

Mark

Norman

Peter

Robert

Kenner/Deceased

Roger W.

Florence

Brenda

Peterson	Tobias
Peterson/Ekdahl	Linda
Peterson/Moyyad	Sundra
Peterson/Pascoe	Donna
Porkka	Alfred
Porkke	John
Porkka	Leo
Porkka	Raumond
Porkka/Carlson	Milma
Porkka/Makela	Agnes
Pusa	David
Pusa	Donald
Pusa	Douglas
Pusa/Ruotsele	Dorothy
Puuri	Carl
Puuri	Duane
Puuri	Ear1
Puuri	Edwin
Puuri	Robert
Puuri	Ted
Puuri/Battaglia	Grace
Puuri/Dellacecca	Ethel
Puuri/Hodges	Joanne
Puuri/Karkkainen	Kathryn
Puuri/Niemi	Judu
Puuri/Riutta	Jeanne
Raisanen	Carl
Raisanen	Edwin-Bill
Raisanen	John
Raisanen	Roy
Raisanen/Wiitanen	Mae
Rajala	Clifford
Rajala	Hubert
Rajala	Roy
Rajala	Wallace
Rajala	Wilbert
Rajala/Heikkinen	Saime
Rajala/Judnich	Dorothy
Rajala/Koistinen	Mildred
Rajala/Rimpela	Shirley
Rajala/Waananen	Dorothy
Ranta	Gordon
Rautio	Clifton
Rautio	Earl
Rautio/Curtiss	Milly
Rautio/Dubay	Darlene
Rautio/Romanelli	Gloria
Rautio/Yoesting	Ruth
Riipi	Matt
Riipi	Richard

Riipi/Strayer Rintala Rintala Rintala Rintala Rintala/Sagers Rintala/White Riutta Riutta Riutta Riutta Riutta Riutta/Kauppila Romppainen Romppainen/Suo Romppainen/Tuohimaa Marie Ruohonen Steve Ruchonen Susan Ruohonen/Farrey Shelley Ruchonen/Garnell Gail Ruohonen/Hannon Pam Ruohonen/Kangas **Vickie** Ruchonen/Karkkainen Ruth Ruohonen/Simonson Margaret Saterstad Anna Saterstad Jon Simoncon David Simonson Erland Simonson Gary Simonson/Keturi Lois Simonson/Simpson Alice Solmonson/Norkol Dorothy Stefanich Gerald Sten Eldon Sten Howard Sten James Sten/Lehto Beverly. Sten/Lukehart Mary Jo Sten/McKee Elida

Summers Craig Timonen Wesley Timonen/Kero Darlene Trolin/Little Dolores Tuohimaa C1 yde Usitalo Herb Usitalo Robert Vitton John Wakeham Bill Jr Floyd Wakeham Wakeham Roy Wakeham/Diver Diana Wakeham/Gondek Myrna Wakeham/Mattson Dorothy Wakeham/Norkol Violet Walstrom/Brusse Jean Walstrom/Immonen Joan Walstrom/Oinas Janet Walstrom/Rautio Fage Walstrom/Rowe Joyce Walstrom/Silkowski Arlene Weber/Gritzmaker Theresa Weber/Stimac Mary Wenberg/Ahola Sandy Wenberg/Autio Cynthia Wenberg/Kanto Judith Wenberg/Wareham Linda Westerberg Bernard Wiitanen Keith Wiitanen Mark Wuebben/Hesterberg Judith Ylitalo Clude Ylitalo/Zieker Geraldine Yotti/Steeb-Lamb Sondra William A. Yrjana

Researched by Barb Koski Osma Plat Road Houghton MI 49931 in 2009 Submitted 2011. Contact Webmaster with other information.

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