

LIMINGA

According to a book Michigan Name Places:

Liminka is Swedish. A place in Northern Finland. Liminga had first post office on Dec. 26, 1908. The first postmaster was Abel Johnson. Ingrid Purri (now Anderson) said at one time the person before Edwin and Ingrid had a post office in the front room.

According to a book History of Finns Liminga was formed by first permanent settler Matti Jaakola who was born in 1860 and died in 1942.

Other settlers were: Lassi and Anna Manninen. Lassi was born in 1845, and Jacob Alanen who died in 1958.

Jack Ruohonen wrote in his history of Oskar area:

Page 81.82. Matti Jaakkola Mrs. Greeta Johanna Jaakkola

Born in Kuusamossa May 8, 1868. Came to America in 1889 and during the Eliassen boom days settled in as a logger. Matti was one of the early settlers in Liminga when everything was a dark forest. He was in the first group of loggers when they began building the first logging camp and first well. He settled on that very site and his broad fields opened in the middle of the Finnish village. When he became attached to the area he sent for his wife, mother and sister.

When they arrived at the logging house or houses, where the present village now sets, they settled in. The family consisted of nine family members. Later Matti's blind sister Vapper came and Matti took care of her as well. Matti raises his family and then his journey ended. He died on Feb. 4, 1949 at the age of 80 years 9 months, and 26 days.

Mrs. Greeta Johanna Jaakkola nee Tavela born in Taivalkoski on November 13, 1866 died 1939. Buried in the Liminga family plot.

Elderly locals say: The center of the area known as Liminga (Laminga) is Sandy's garage/store or may also have been the Liminga Hall (dance) just down the road. During Don Heikkila days (50's) he knew it only to be a hay storage building, though family folklore has it that his mom and dad met at a dance at the hall in the 30's.

Liminga Hall. Henry, son of early Oskar settler Aleksi Garnell, shares on his 1977 WMPL Heritage line interview: This building was a dance hall and a bingo hall. This building still stands today. It is used now for storage. It was busy during the copper strike of 1913. Moonshine was brought in. There were fights. It was also called the Bingo Hall as some people could not pronounce Liminga. There was a soft drink called Bingo served.

Clarence Monette in his book Some Copper Country Names and Places shares: Liminga is a rural community consisting of a few farms and residents who built their homes along the county road in Houghton County. It was served by an Eilola and later Schmidt's Corner general store and service station (gone in 2009), Church/Township Hall, EB Holman Elementary School and Fire Department Station Pre. #1. Liminga boast a tourist attraction- the Covered Drive, once a railroad grade of the Atlantic and Lake Superior Railroad. Liminga had a population of over 300 people in 1916.

Barb Koski shares: My husband's grandmother, Esther Heikkila-Koski, was raised by

parents Riita and Michael in home that is directly to the left of the township hall. They and neighbor Mr. Rautio gave some of their land for the building of the Liminga School in 1911.

Judy Sharrer of Edgemere shared with Barb that her grandpa Abel Heltunen lived in the Michael Heikkila homestead before living in Redridge and Edgemere. (Barb looks up when Michael immigrated to America in 1892 and finds he labored in Oskar in 1897 Polk Directory, moving to Liminga before 1901, presumed around 1892 when Riita and son Jacob immigrated in 1892. Write up on Michael says that there was a log home on the property when he moved. .. this must have been Abel's or another of the early settlers.

Don Heikkila shares in 2009:

Sam Lahti is from the Toivola area, I think. He had a "general store", gas station, auto sales & service, garage (Roy Koskela was the mechanic). He housed, maintained, and operated Stanton Twp. school buses for many years.

In the back of the property was a rather large "junk" yard.

He sold basic groceries, some clothing (hunting and jackets and work clothes for the locals). He also sold hunting equipment – guns and related supplies.

Sam's wife's name was Elma (I think). They had a step son (??) by the name of Vernon Olson who (in the late 60's) sold Larson snow machines and boats out of the business operation. Vern later (late 60s and forward) owned and operated the White Pine Express Bus line that ran between Calumet and White Pine for the workers at the mine. I believe Vernon still lives and might be in the Chassell area.

Don Heikkila shares (5/2008) this about his school days:

Dad (William Heikkila) was on the School Board around mid 50s. He became instrumental in the moving of the ninth graders to Houghton starting in 58/59. Up to that time students went from Redridge to Liminga to do their 9th and 10th then went to Houghton for the last two years. In 1958 (my 9th grade) he drove 4-5 of us daily to Houghton HS which he believed all of us deserved a chance to start earlier on choosing careers, college prep, HS sports, etc. The issue was brought up to a vote the next year and the voters supported sending all students beginning in the 9th grade to Houghton.

Teachers over my years: Mrs. Alice Lahti, Mrs. Hooper/Merrill Mrs. Pearl Polglase (SP?), Mrs. Fountain, Mr. John Kempainen, Ms Peterson (one year or so), Mrs. Linda Lehto, Mrs. Katherine Bingham, Mr. Bert Maki (has written several Hancock history books), Mrs. Ina Korpi, Mr. Medline, Mr. Bill Brinkman

There were 4 kindergarten students: Ray Niemi, Sanfrid Marttila, William Raisanen, and me. Sanfrid died in 1966 in a car accident in/near Detroit.

My favorite subjects were shop, math and science. Shop. I enjoyed because I could be creative. I still use many of the skills. I liked math and sciences also – Sputnik changed the Math and Science curriculum in HS and I was part of the New Stuff.

See the section on Schools of Stanton Township for more on Liminga and Redridge Schools... and all the other schools.

Researched and compiled by Barb Koski, Osma Plat Road, Houghton, MI. More historical information is desired. Contact Webmaster. Submitted in 2009.