

MARINETTE COUNTY, WISCONSIN, HISTORY – AMBERG (PIKE)

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

[NOTE Pike is an early name for Amberg, Wisconsin.]

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 9 [Thursday, May 23, 1889], page 1, column 2

ELSEWHERE we publish an article descriptive of the promising town of **Pike**, located 22 miles down the **M. & N.** We doubt if all our readers fully comprehend the importance of this rapidly growing town, and a careful perusal of the article mentioned will be found interesting. At present **Marinette**, though three times as far away as **Iron Mountain**, gets pretty much all the trade that goes out of the town. Why this should be it is hard to explain, and we believe much of the trade could be diverted to this city if the proper effort was made.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 9 [Thursday, May 23, 1889], page 4, columns 3-4

Pike.

The thriving village of **Pike**, a few miles south on the **M. & N. road**, is thus described by the **Marinette Eagle** of last Saturday:

A hasty visit to the village of Pike this week disclosed the fact that that hamlet is growing rapidly and that new buildings are going up in all directions. The way station in the woods which was a mere "jumping off" place a few years ago, is rapidly becoming a thriving village.

In winter Pike is a kind of headquarters for the basis of lumbermen's supplies which have to be sent from there to the north and south branches of the Pike river. But the

principal industry which gives Pike its vitality is the **granite quarrying**. For miles around the country is full of granite which crops out in many places. The best outcroppings fell several years ago, into the hands of **Cameron, Amberg & Co.**, of Chicago, who have developed them and organized a stock company under the name of the **American Granite Company**. The company is now operating these quarries – the **Aberdeen**, situated a third of a mile south of the village on the M. & N. railroad track, and the **Argyle** and **Martindale** nearly two miles in the opposite direction. In and about these quarries and the large stone cutting house of the company are employed at present about 225 men, which force will be maintained through the summer season and probably increased. The building in which the cutting and finishing of the granite takes place is situated near the depot and is one of the largest of the kind in the world, being 400 feet long by 100, and through part of the length, 150 feet wide. Through the middle runs an elevated double track 50 feet wide on which runs a machine back and forth and from side to side, capable of handling and placing blocks weighing thirty tons. Machinery will soon be put in for polishing the granite and one machine will be capable of turning and polishing columns over thirty feet long. This structure was built by **Mr. E. Smythe**, who used over half a million feet of lumber in it. **Mr. Amberg**, a member of the company, spends about one-fourth of his time there directing affairs and **Mr. Gilbert Phillips** is general manager at the village and Aberdeen quarry, **Mr. D.M. Archie** being foreman, at the latter. The boarding house near the Aberdeen quarry is in charge of **Mr. Duncan Hunter**, who has been there for several years. The upper quarries we did not find time to visit on this trip.

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Among business places in the village may be mentioned the following: **Wright Bros. & Co.**, the pioneer merchants, with **Mr. R.G. Brown** in charge. The **Pike River House** is run by **O.L. Waite** and the bar in connection by **Waite & Aldrich**. Just south is the saloon of **John Underwood**, who is one of the supervisors of the town of **Wausaukee**, in which Pike is situated. Near Wright Bros. store is a building occupied by **Frank Brown** for confectionary and cigars and the postoffice. The hotel formerly run by **Mrs. Theo. (Bailey) Hendricks**, is now in charge of **Howard & Jureau. Tripp & Frost**, formerly of **Abrams**, run a grocery store and meat market. A new building will soon be finished and occupied by **Killet Bros.**, formerly of **Montello**, for a general store. **Gus. Brown** is making a success of the **Finlander's Hotel**. **Dr. F. Gregory**, of Marinette, will soon have a drug store going here. **T.F. DeKelver**, of **Green Bay**, is building a hotel and saloon and will be ready for business in a few weeks. **Geo. Spaughton**, from Marinett [*sic – Marinette*] is building a hotel and restaurant building and will have an amusement hall in the rear. This will be strictly a temperance resort and George has great hopes of a big business.

Many residences are going up in all parts of the village. The **Granite [*sic – granite*] company** will soon build a **new carpenter shop and blacksmith shop**, and other improvements are contemplated. **Rev. Mr. Bell**, a Presbyterian minister from Chicago, is stationed here for the summer and a **Presbyterian church** will be built before the season is over. A new road from the village to the upper quarries is now being built, Mr. Waite having taken the contract. Pike is a very different town so far [*sic - far*] as law and order is concerned, to what it was several years ago. The saloons have taken to closing their front

doors on Sunday, and the police and justice department is able to deal with all ordinary breaches of the peace. **J.E. Wilson**, boss carpenter, has just received his star as deputy sheriff, **E. Smythe**, the contractor, is justice of the peace, and **Geo. Blair** makes an efficient constable.

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Personal and Social.

Charley Leyden was up from **Pike** last Saturday and represents that thrifty burg to be overflowing with activity. Building operations are more than booming, and hotel keepers are taxed to their utmost to provide even a sleeping place on the floor for their numerous guests.

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QUINNESEC.

Mrs. Lillie Aldrich has removed to **Pike, Wis.**

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 11 [Thursday, June 6, 1889], page 4, columns 2-3

Personal and Social.

Louis Rouse, of this city, is **erecting a 24x40 ft. structure at Pike, Wis.** He will conduct a **shaving establishment – barber shop and saloon.**