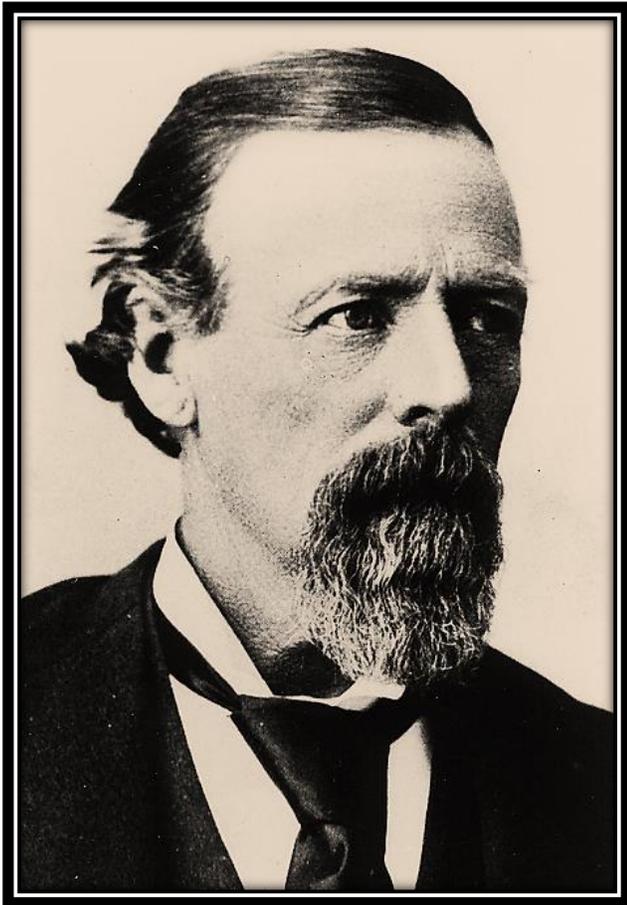


MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 14: JOHN LANE BUELL, MENOMINEE IRON RANGE PIONEER

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



John Lane Buell (1835-1916)

Founder of Quinnesec

[Menominee Range Historical Museum]

John Lane Buell, a pioneer explorer of the Menominee Iron Range and the founder of Quinnesec, was born October 12, 1835 in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana.

Buell's paternal grandfather, Salmon A. Buell, was a Revolutionary War soldier, who was born and reared in Burlington, Vermont. Buell's father, George P. Buell, was born in 1801 in Scipio, New York, and married Ann Lane, daughter of the Hon. Amos and Mary (Foote) Lane. Their children were Salmon A., George P. John Lane, Joana, Ann and Julius.

After completing his early studies in the public schools in Lawrenceburg, John Lane

Buell took a scientific course at the Norwich Military Institute in Norwich, Vermont.

In 1857 he went to Kansas, spending a year in Leavenworth. On October 20, 1858, he was one of the first group of young men that started overland to Colorado. They arrived at Cherry Creek, the site of what became Denver, on December 20, 1858.

In 1859, Buell surveyed and platted the city of Boulder, and in 1859 and 1860 worked in Central City, Colorado. He engaged in mining in Leadville, Colorado, for six months. In the fall of 1860, Buell traveled with thirty-four companions by way of Pueblo de Taos to the valley of the Rio Grande, and from there to Mesilla, New Mexico, where he was employed at the Pinos Altos mines for a few months.

In the spring of 1861, Buell started for the Gulf of Mexico, traveling via El Paso and San Antonio, Texas, to Fort Davis. By this time Texas had seceded from the Union, and General David E. Twiggs had surrendered the federal troops there.

Traveling by night in order to escape capture, Buell finally reached the Gulf of Mexico and secured passage on a vessel used to transport paroled soldiers. He landed in New York on May 2, 1861.

Buell entered the commissary department as a clerk, and in August, 1861, was appointed second lieutenant in the Fourth United States Infantry, and for a time was stationed at Fort Columbus, located in New York Harbor. Given charge of the state prisoners of North Carolina, Buell took them to Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, where he was also given charge of the state prisoners of Maryland.

Among the prisoners in Buell's charge were James Mason and John Slidell, who were two Confederate diplomats removed from the British mail packet RMS *Trent* on November 8, 1861 by Union Captain Charles Wilkes, commander of the USS

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San Jacinto. These two envoys were bound for Britain and France to press the Confederacy's case for diplomatic recognition and to lobby for possible financial and military support. The initial reaction on the home front was to celebrate the capture and rally against Britain, threatening war. However, President Abraham Lincoln and his top advisors did not want to risk war. After several tense weeks, the crisis was resolved when the Lincoln administration released the envoys, who resumed their voyage on a British man-of-war, but failed in their goal of achieving diplomatic recognition for the Confederacy.

Buell remained at Fort Warren for three months and then went to Washington, where he was appointed regimental quartermaster and commissary. During General George B. McClellan's advance he had charge of the baggage and supply train of the Third Brigade.

After reaching Harrison's Landing, Buell again joined his command and took part in the skirmishes which carried the stone bridge across the creek on September 16, 1862. The following day Buell had command of the two companies on the right of the line of eight companies that were sent across Antietam Creek to cover batteries operating in support of General Ambrose Burnside, who was making a desperate charge on the left wing of General McClellan's army. The officer in charge of the land skirmishes made the fatal mistake of marching them up the breastworks on the Sharpsburg Pike, and before the error could be corrected he had lost thirteen of his twenty-seven men forming the company at the right because their position on elevated ground exposed them to rebel fire.

Buell's father, then seriously ill, implored him to come home and take charge of his

business affairs. Therefore, Buell resigned from the army after the Battle of Antietam, returning home to Lawrenceburg, Indiana. He later served as aid-de-camp to General John Love, who was in command of the Indiana militia, operating against the forces of John Morgan, the daring rebel leader.

Entering Harvard College in 1863, Buell studied law for six months and then returned to Lawrenceburg, where he engaged in farming until August, 1866.

On December 31, 1863, Buell married Ruth Belle Ludlow, daughter of Stephen Ludlow, in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana, her birthplace. Her grandfather, John Ludlow, came to the Northwest Territory in 1810, locating in what was afterwards Hamilton County, and served as first sheriff of that county.

Her father, Stephen Ludlow, was born May 5, 1790, in Morris County, New Jersey, and was later a pioneer settler of Lawrenceburg, Indiana. In 1820 he was one of the commissioners appointed by the legislature to select four sections of land granted by the United States as a site for the capital, which in June, 1820, was located at Indianapolis. He was married to Ann Porter, a daughter of John Porter. At seventy years of age Mr. Ludlow accepted the position of assistant United States surveyor, and was active in that work until his death at Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Due to ill health, Buell decided to try an entire change of climate, moving to Menominee, Michigan, late in 1866. There, in 1867, he put the machinery into the Jones Mill on the bay shore, operating the mill for two years. During that time he also carried on general farming, published the *Menominee Journal*, and occasionally practiced law.

In the fall of 1871 Buell paid his first visit to the Menominee Iron Range with John Armstrong, a timber cruiser. Camping at a

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spring which was later designated as the north end of Quinnesec Avenue, Buell strolled over the bluff to the west and discovered an outcropping of iron ore while Armstrong was preparing dinner. *[This was later the Quinnesec Mine, and eventually was known as the Devil's Ice Box.]*

On May 20, 1873, after title to the land was legally cleared, Buell began exploring with a crew of fifteen men on the site of the Quinnesec Mine. On August 2 a deposit of blue ore was discovered in the southeast quarter of township thirty-nine north, range thirty, which became the Quinnesec Mine.

In the winter and spring of 1873-1874 the first consignment of ore mined on the Menominee Iron Range was taken by Buell by sleigh and wagon to Menominee – about seventy miles in all, forty of which was over the State Road. Fifty-three tons were transported and smelted by the Menominee Furnace Company and proved to be of high quality.

In 1876 Buell platted the Village of Quinnesec, consisting of forty acres of land in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 3, Township 39 North, Range 30 West. The plat was not officially recorded at Menominee, Michigan, then the county seat, until March 21, 1877. John A. VanCleve was the surveyor.

In 1876 Buell built the first wagon road made between Twin Falls and the New York Farm, and superintended the construction of the iron bridges at Twin Falls and at Iron Mountain.

From Saturday, August 26, to Tuesday, September 7, 1876, Buell traveled from the mouth of the Menominee River north to the Pine River, Brule River and Paint River, and then traveled back down the Menominee River to its mouth, keeping a diary of the trip.

[The diary was given to Mrs. August (Irene) Paveglio, who worked for the Buells,

to keep notes by Buell in 1914. Fortunately a photocopy has survived.]

Buell traveled with two employees, John McLeod and John Gannon or Ganyan, taking along his water spaniel “Jack”.

Buell referred to McLeod as “Charley”, part Chippewa, and Ganyan and “John”, who was a full-blooded Chippewa. Buell described both men as “better than the average river men in the bow with either pole or paddle.”

Noting that John understood English quite well but wouldn't speak it, Buell stated that Charley served as the interpreter. Charley spoke English, French, Menominee, Chippewa and some of the Scandinavian languages.

They traveled by wagon to the mouth of the Sturgeon River and from there on by birch bark canoe, except for the portages when they relied on their legs.

In addition to becoming familiar with the territory, Buell's diary indicates that hunting and fishing were the primary goals of this excursion.

A portable sawmill was set up by Buell in 1876, and in 1877 he built the Pioneer School House, a two-story frame structure located on the south side of Paint Street. The site is now a part of U.S. 2.

Buell also donated land for the Catholic and Methodist churches.

Early in 1879 Buell was planning to establish a newspaper at Quinnesec. Sometime in late January Buell approached William J. Penberthy, then foreman of the *Menominee Herald*, offering him the position of editor of the new newspaper.

On his way to Chicago to purchase a press and material for a newspaper office on February 24, 1879, Buell stopped in Menominee, again offering the editorship to Penberthy, who accepted, giving his 10-day notice to the *Menominee Herald*. Penberthy accompanied Buell to Chicago.

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Said to have been built in 1877 by John Lane Buell, the founder of Quinnesec, the Pioneer School, the first constructed in Breitung Township, was located on the southwest corner of Bluff Street and Paint Street (now U.S. 2) with the front door facing north. A second story was being added in late October, 1879, to accommodate all the pupils in attendance. The addition was finished by mid-December, when the workmen enclosed the grounds with a fence. A one-story library building facing Bluff Street was attached to the school by a hallway and was undoubtedly the area's first such repository. The school was destroyed by fire on May 23, 1924. *[John Alquist/Breitung Township]*

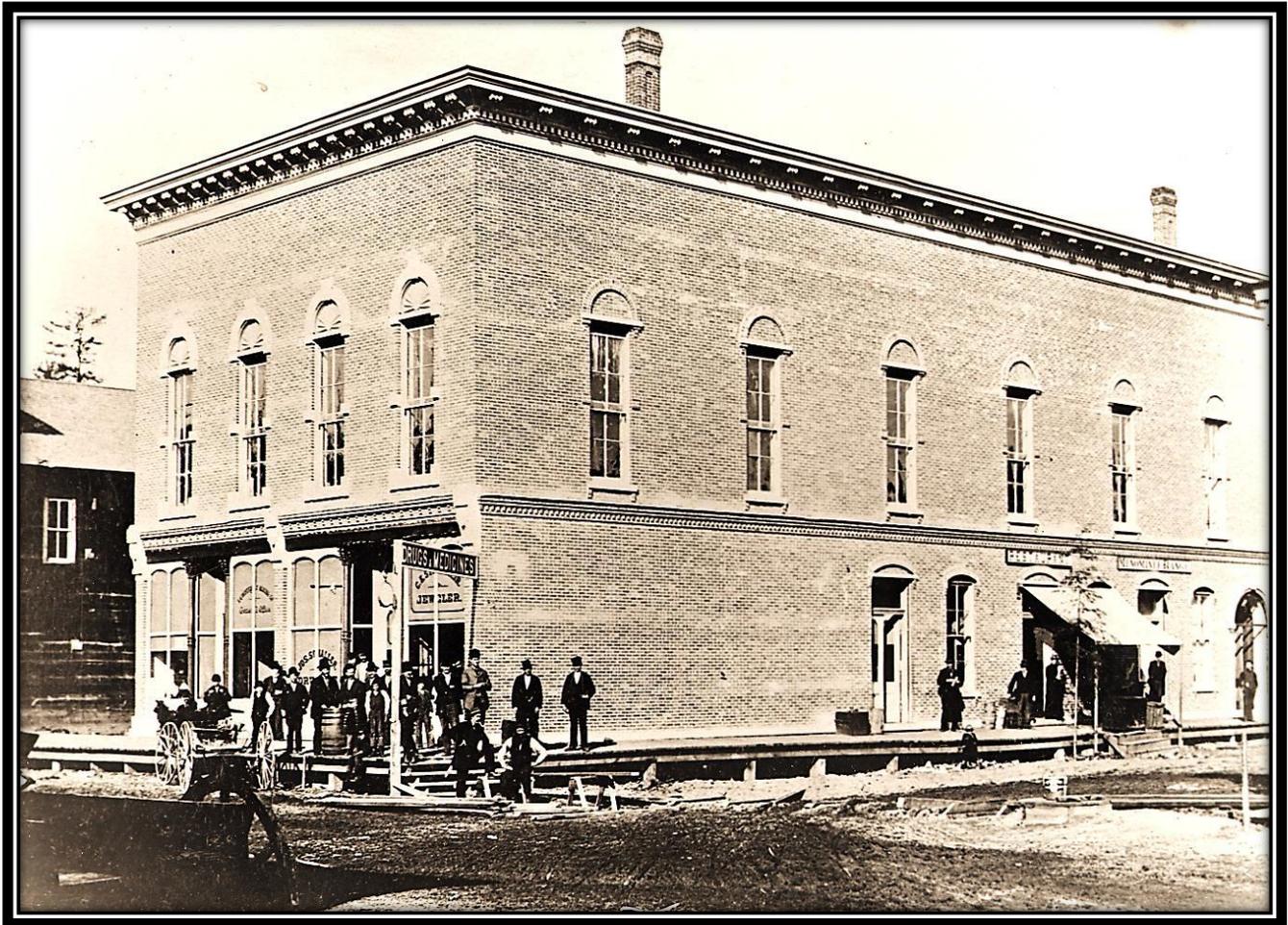
On Wednesday, March 19, 1879, the first number of *The Menominee Range*, a five-column four-page newspaper, was published at Quinnesec. John Lane Buell was listed as publisher and William J. Penberthy was the editor.

This was the first newspaper to be published on the Menominee Iron Range. The newspaper was sold to Carl L. Wendel, of Norway, effective March 10, 1881. By mid-December of that year the newspaper was moved to Norway.

On March 16, 1877, the Michigan legislature established the boundaries for Breitung Township. The area then included what became Norway Township, the southern part of Sagola Township below Randville and extended as far west as Stager in what became Iron County. This area was all in Menominee Township, Menominee County. Menominee County had been formed from Delta County just fourteen years before in 1863.

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John Lane Buell's opera house in Quinnesec, considered one of the finest in the Upper Peninsula, was located on the northeast corner of Quinnesec Avenue and Paint Street (now U.S. 2). The opera house opened to the public Tuesday, December 30, 1879, and served as the social and cultural center of the village for many years. The second story contained a large dance floor and auditorium with a stage. In this photograph, probably taken in the summer of 1880, a sign in the left store front window notes the Menominee Mining Company general offices were located within. In the window to the left of the right store front is the sign for Joseph Schaller, druggist, while the sign for Charles E. Steller's jewelry shop appears in the right window of this same store front. Under the awning on the side is a restaurant, and next-door is the office of *The Menominee Range*, the county's first newspaper. This photograph dates no later than the spring of 1881 when the newspaper was moved to Norway. The opera house burned August 23, 1925. [Alice (Massie) Riekkola]

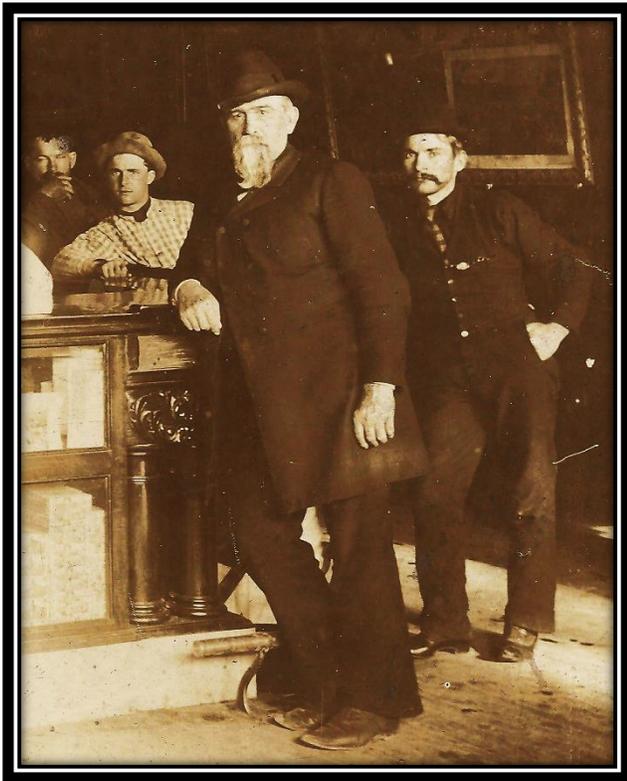
However, since no election of officers was held, the affairs of the township continued to be controlled by Menominee Township until April 29, 1878, when an

election was held at the Wright Brothers store. James Kinific was elected the first supervisor. Other officers were: township clerk, Hugh McLaughlin; superintendent of

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schools, Roscoe G. Brown; school inspector, Milton Belknap; commissioner of highways, John Lane Buell; and township treasurer, John McKenna. There were also justices of the peace and constables. A total of 128 votes were cast. One of the first actions to be taken by the board in June of 1878 was to build a "lockup" or jail. The land was bought from John Buell and was to the immediate west of the Pioneer School. Outside of routine business, the only other action of the board in 1878 was to break up a house of "ill repute" in November of that year.



John Lane Buell posed for the photographer at the bar in Little Joe's Tavern in Iron Mountain with some friends in about 1900-1910. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

Buell became deeply interested in everything pertaining to the development

and advancement of the Upper Peninsula immediately, and was prominent and influential in public affairs.

Elected to the Michigan State legislature in 1872, Buell introduced the first ten-hour labor bill ever submitted to the legislature, and also introduced the first log lien bill.

Buell also introduced a bill for the construction of the Marquette and Mackinaw Railroad which was defeated because of prejudice against land grants. He made arrangements with the railway company for the first excursion of legislators and state officers to the Upper Peninsula.

Buell became a Mason at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, on October 16, 1856, and was a member of Quinnesec (later Norway) Lodge, No. 362, F. & A.M.

An article in "Quinnesec Items" in the December 1, 1904 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* reported:

Col. John L. Buell received notice last Sunday that he had been allowed a pension of ten dollars per month on the age basis, account of service as first-lieutenant in the United States regular army during the civil war. Col. Buell is seventy years old and next year his pension will be increased to twelve dollars per month.

Buell died in his home in Quinnesec on October 24, 1916, following a lingering illness, and was buried in Iron Mountain's Cemetery Park.

Mrs. Buell died May 21, 1920, in her home in Quinnesec, following a short illness. About six weeks earlier, she had returned from Lawrenceberg, Indiana, where she had spent the winter with relatives, becoming ill a few days later.

Mrs. Buell, a native of Indiana, was born in about 1842. The Buells had no children. The funeral was from St. Mary's Church in Quinnesec. Mrs. Buell was buried next to her husband in Cemetery Park.

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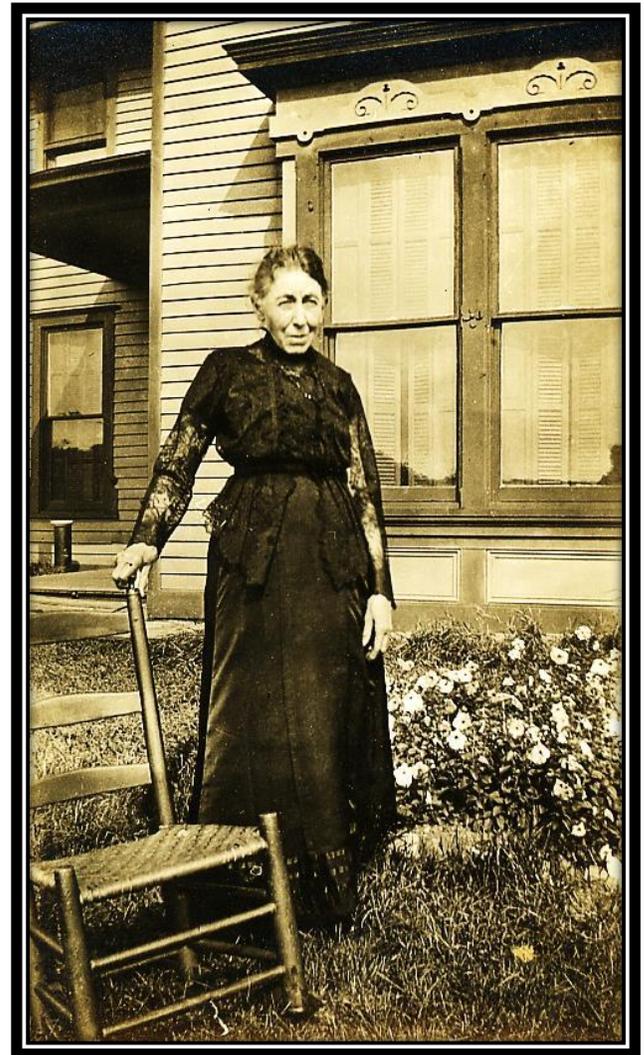


**Wisconsin Lot 170
Iron Mountain Cemetery Park
Iron Mountain, Dickinson County,
Michigan**

An article in the August 5, 1920 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* reported that the Dickinson County Poor Commissioners had instructed Prosecuting Attorney Knight to secure an option on the residence of the late John L. Buell at Quinnesec, recommending that it be purchased for county hospital purposes. The State Board of Corrections had decided that the building used for a county hospital was unsuited for the purpose and had ordered the supervisors to provide new quarters.

Apparently the sale did not materialize, and an article in the September 2, 1920 edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* stated "the Buell place at Quinnesec, which the county anticipated purchasing for a hospital" had been sold to Joseph Mongrain. The property contained seven

acres, a large twelve-room residence and a fine barn. The sale included the furniture and other contents of the home for a total price of \$6,500.



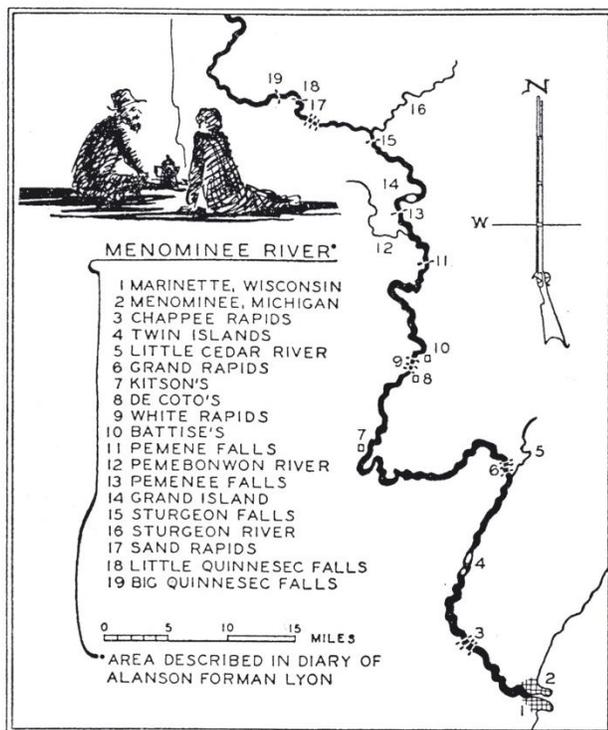
Sometime after John Lane Buell's death in 1916, Ruth Belle (Ludlow) Buell posed in her yard in Quinnesec next to the house she shared with her husband. She was wearing her widow's weeds, now a part of the collection at the Menominee Range Historical Museum. [Menominee Range Historical Foundation]

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Diary of John Lane Buell's Trip from the Mouth of the Menominee River North to the Pine River, Brule River and Paint River and Down the Menominee River to the Mouth

Saturday, August 26 to Tuesday,
September 5, 1876



THE MENOMINEE RIVER IN 1854

Map by James M. Campbell

Diary of a trip from the Mouth of the Menominee River (boundary line between Michigan and Wisconsin by way of Pine River to North fork to the Half breed Portage, thence by the Nine [?] lakes to the Brule River, and down the Paint to the Menominee home again.

The company consists of – myself, **J.L. Buell**, employee **John McLeod** [*sic – McLeod*] and employee **John Gannon/Ganyon** [?].

Means of transit – wagon to mouth of Sturgeon, birch canoe from thence, legs on the portages.

Means of Defense and offense – Double barreled shotgun, Trolling line, Trail line, 5 single blankets, 1 Tent, 1 Box matches.

Consolations – Breakfast Bacon, Flour, Tea (___ H.), Loaf Sugar, Pepper, Salt, Baking Powder.

Guest – A water spaniel “**Jack**”

I have named only such articles as are essential to the well being [*sic – well-being*] of the physical man. Anxiety is only removed and an even peace of mind secured by having competent boatman on the water and industrious and willing men in camp. Was fortunate enough to secure both – **McLeod** [*sic – McLeod*] is better than the average river men in the bow with either pole or paddle and **Gauyon** is a hero at such work. **Although McLeod's** [*sic – McLeod*] name is **John**, I call him “**Charley**” and **Gauyon** I call **John**. The woods is [*sic – are*] a poor place to come over a mouthful of names before you reach a man. Sometimes he is wanted in a hurry, and if the name is too long, a person don't [*sic – doesn't*] get a chance to swear any. I never knew an excursion of this nature that “cuss words” was [*sic – were*] not a component part (except this Charley don't swear, and John although a

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thorough bred Chippewa belongs to church, and is a good Christian [*sic – Christian*]). Having no one to keep company[,] I have had to forego the habit for the time being, and I hope forever. Only one day[,] when coming down quite a pitch with an 80# pack on my back[,] the Gun in one hand and a paddle in the other[,] my foot caught, and in pitching forward I very seriously retarded the _____ development of a big cedar, with the top of my head. When I quit seeing stars, I was going to give that cedar a regular ordinary blessing, but when looking up at it, saw that the top was dead, took pity on it, put my head between my knees, squeezed it to its former symetry [*sic – symmetry*], shouldered my pack, and travelled on. Probably the first time in my life that I ever philosophized.

John understands English quite well but don't [*sic - doesn't*] or won't speak it. Charley is our interpreter. He is Chippewa, speaks English, French, Menominee, Chippewa, and the Scandinavian tounges [*sic – tongues*].

We left Menominee on Saturday[,] Aug. 26th. I have kept a running sketch of each day's joys and sorrows, and on this Tuesday[,] Sept. 5th[,] finding myself encamped on a little Island containing a ¼ acre, near the center of the Middle Lake on the portage from the Pine to the Brule[,] I have set myself to codifying, and smoothing down my data. The little tent is pitched on the highest – part of the island facing the East. Charley has made a regular feather bed

of boughs. The island is thickly timbered with pine and balsam fir so as to break off the chill. With [*the*] East wind that is blowing[,] the sun is shining brightly and as I look out from my shed but through the foiliage [*sic – foliage*] I can see his rays dancing and glittering on the ripples of the water. The site is picturesque in the extreme. This is a good spot at which to romance. Twenty years ago I could have taken it all in, but now the keen edge of rapture is turned, and I speak of it Only as a man whose face is turned toward, the down hill [*sic – downhill*] of life can. It is simply an island in the lake, and the lake is as the accident of subsidence left it. The old ax marks made years and years ago indicate that others have been here in times past[,] others that may now be sleeping the eternal sleep. The wild animals, as the indians [*sic - Indians*] who have frequented it in centuries past have left no record of occupation. The boys have taken the canoe and gone up the portage trail, leaving me alone with my dog – and my sketch.

I present a rough sketch of the lake and my camp. My topography of this history a dot [*? – writing light and very difficult to decipher*] and should my wife for whose entertainment I have sketched it [*? – writing light and very difficult to decipher*]. This is the middle and the widest of the lakes. Its shores are surrounded on all sides by pine woods except tamarac [*sic – tamarack*] at the extreme north and south ends.

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[drawing of map of lake]

½ Mile E-W

Island

(looks like a system on the shell)

1 ½ Miles N. & S.

But to business, as I am to deer hunt to night [*sic – tonight,*] and want to close up my account of the trip to date. Tomorrow we portage to the Brule. And with a rapid current will soon be among the natives again. Have just had dinner and returned from a troll around the Island. Caught 5 large black bass[,] any two of which would make a mess for an ordinary family like mine.

On

Saturday, Aug. 26th 1876.

As before stated[,] left the farm four miles from Menominee at 7 P.M. and drove to **Charley Smith's** at the rapids 17 miles[,] arriving there at 11 P.M. Slept on the floor the remainder of the night, took a bite of breakfast and drove to **Pemina farm** 18 miles further and 30 from Menominee. Had dinner, crossed the river and went down to Musconow [*sic – Miscauno*] Ford, four miles and [*to*] find [*a*] teamster to go with on the trip at the rate of 40 \$ per month. He agreed to be at **Murray's** at 6 A.M. next morning. Hitched up and drove to **Murray's** arriving there at 6 P.M. Saw a deer and partridge on the way, and also saw **Eddie Parmenter's camp** at **Pemina Bridge**. None of the party were in. Supposed they were up the creek fishing, or up the river Hunting. As it

was Sunday, probably not doing either. Slept on the floor again, in my own blankets. That was my own choice, as both **Mr. and Mrs. Murray** insisted upon my taking a room in their part of the house which had been lately plastered. As this is in part a health excursion[,] didn't think it advisable to accept the invitation. We had a good supper and breakfast[,] a good night's rest and John coming to Land as per appointment and on

Monday 28 Inst [*of this month*]

drove to **Mouth of Sturgeon [River,]** and while the boys were bringing the team over to the farm to feed, I went up to **Jo [sic – Joe] Lego [sic – Legault – ?]'s** and had [?] his canoe brought [?] down to this farm, and after dinner, spent the time until 3 o'clock pitching her up, arranging my packs & c.

Left 2 parts of flour, and

Flat of Bacon at the farm

borrowed of Rice _____ cups

A Shovel and four papers of Smoking tobacco.

Took the birch at 3 o'clock P.M. and poled up to **Sand Portage**, Killing two Partridges. Made the portage by dark and found **John Hubbard** with a crew engaged in blasting out the rocks at the head of the rapids. **Hubbard** invited me and the boys to supper and we not having fairly _____ accepted the invitation. No brush around[,] we slept in dry weeds. I was sore enough as this Morning.

Tuesday 29th

Took the boat at 6 A.M. Made the portage of **little [sic – Little] and Big**

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Quinnesecs [*sic* – *Quinnesec Falls*] without incident beyond seeing a deer on its bank above the Lower fall and catching two black bass in the Eddy below the Upper fall on the Wisconsin side of the river. My body knows that Lower Q [*sic* – *Quinnesec*] is a short portage and the upper if you take it [?] The long portage is a long one. Reached the head of the Upper Portage at ½ past one, cooked one fish and made a hearty meal and further up River Stopping for camp at quite a little creek that comes in on the Michigan side at the Nine [*sic* – *Nine Lakes* – ?] five miles below the **Mouth of the Pine**. Found a very good camping place indeed, Just on this point. Deer sign being plentiful[,] we took the canoe after supper and went down river a ways in search of a deer. The moon was shining so brightly that we gave it up in disgust and returned to camp where on a good bed of boughs our troubles are soon forgotten and in the morning the fatigue of the former day with it.

Wednesday 30th

I concluded to stay over here a day to take a trout fish. Early in the morning **John** took the gun and went to kill a deer if possible while **Charley** and I took our trail lines and started for a fish. Went up the creek about 2 miles, with my poor success only having taken 3 small trout. On the way home and near the Log landing about a mile from the Mouth, I took [?] this bed of the stream and soon caught 12 very nice trout. Reached camp in time for an early supper, **John** coming soon after without any game. We cooked

our trout, all of the crew eating them with relish. After supper **John** took the gun and poled up River two miles so as to float down after dark in his hope of killing a deer. About 8 P.M. we heard the report of the gun and a quarter hour later **John** rounded this point with a deer in the boat. We dressed it nicely and fried some of the ham at once. How a guest of the Kirby [*Kirby House, a famous hotel in Menominee*] will relish a piece of venison properly cook [*sic* – *cooked*] after a long days tramp in the woods. And how a person can eat in the woods! The same indulgence in a city would nightmare a man of my weakness for a twelfth month. There is no great amount of pine visible along this creek, but such as there is, is large and sound. On the north bank for quite a distance up it is popple with black ash bottom. The South side rating better, being hemlock hardwood and pine. The surface is much broken. The Menominee from this point to the Head of Big Quinnesec is Generally smooth deep water.

Thursday Morning.

On breaking camp for **Pine River**, we struck a rapid about half mile from the mouth of creek, found swift shallow water nearly all the distance to **the Mouth of the Pine**. At the Mouth of that stream there is a bad rapid which continues for a distance of ½ half [*sic*] mile from the Mouth from whence I found a smooth beautiful river until about midway of the 2nd horse shoe. Then where the water becomes shallow and swift, Making it a hard place in a

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birch *canoe*[,] as it is only six hundred yards across the neck of the bend and about 3 miles around. I should another time make a portage at this point. There is a good trail cut out and seems to be much used. The part of the trail is just where the River makes a sharp turn to the East, a little above the trail a marshy bottom sets in.

We saw two deer to day [*sic – today*]. They seem to be plentiful from the signs, and no better place for night hunting could be found than in Space of smooth River referred to. Shot a duck, but it proving to be a saw bill threw it away. We have a ham of venison on hand from the deer killed on the main river, and[,] as I do not approve of the indiscriminate slaughter of game[,] we have not been anxious to day [*sic – today*] to capture any. Reached the 1st falls on the Pine at 4 P.M. Made the portage and camped at the head of the trail. The Length of the portage is 1/3 of mile if making the long portage, about 200 yards if the short one. The approach to the foot of the long one is as nasty [?] a place as I care to put a birch canoe. With the present low water, we should have damaged our boat by attempting to make this foot of the short one. The camping place at the head is a fair one. After the tent was pitched I tried trout fishing both above and below the falls with indifferent success only. Only caught two or three very small ones, which I threw back in the stream, and with a disgust for **Pine River trout fishing** of which had heard so much. Returned to camp – to supper. The Little

river between the falls and the mouth is seriously marred by the utter worthlessness of the country and ash and elm bottoms. The first hard would [*sic – hardwood*] and pine of any account is reached at the lower falls. The outlook from our camping place indicates a more agreeable and valuable county ahead of us. These falls are very rough[,] being made up of a succession of pitches with huge boulders setting over the stream. Without a good deal of improvement they will seriously injure logs in transit over them. Portage on the south side of stream.

Friday Morning

On taking the boat we saw big deer crossing the river at the first bend above camp. On reaching the south bank for some reason instead of passing out they turned back, and by the time they reached the north bank I had come within 120 yards of them. Without much hope of success I fired on them, Knocking over the larger of the two down. It fell in[,] then scrambled for a second and[,] reaching some brush on the shore[,] gained its feet and made off. The other charge in my gun was bird shot – or we would have had it sure. I had a bad eye for landscaping this morning or shooting either[,] it having swollen almost to a close through the night. About one mile from the head of the first fall we reached the foot of the second if falls they can be called. It's [?] rough to even and apparently too [*sic – two*] dams to portage. A little improvement may be necessary on the lower pitch to prevent

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 14: JOHN LANE BUELL, MENOMINEE IRON RANGE PIONEER

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

the brooming [?] of the ends of logs. The take out – and put in on the portage of ¼ mile are both good and on the south side of the river. Taking the boat again and poling for one mile we reached the **upper and last falls and portage on the Main River**. For a distance of 200 yds. The water rushes at a wild rate through a narrow gorge which would be navigable at any time to bateaux but not to a birch [*birch bark canoe*]. Then there is a smooth stretch of river, where we came to a **very handsome falls made up of 3 pitches within 100 ft.** The 1st 3 ft. – the 2nd 8 – and the 3d [*sic – 3rd*] and lower one 20 feet – all perpendicular[,] making a descent of about 30 ft. The river at this lower pitch is about 80 ft. in width, spreading out into a kind of basin at the foot of the descent enclosed by ledges of rocks a hundred feet in height. The scenery below is attractive. It is wild, and to a degree dreary. One of steep places to make a person feel utterly alone – where man realizes his impotency as compared with the grandness of nature. There is a heavy growth of hard wood [*sic – hardwood*] about the falls, but little pine is visible. The portage is ¼ of a mile in length. The take out below very muddy and bad in all respects[;] the put in above a good one so to speak. Trout fishing again below these falls. Caught three chubs and gave it up. Cooked and ate our dinner at the head of this portage. Between each of these falls were [*sic – was*] a stretch of smooth[,] deep water, almost sluggish[,] forming admirable points for night hunting. All

along the banks deer signs are profuse. Also saw two Beavers and one otter sign, but have seen no partridges or pigeons since leaving Menominee. Saw three large porcupines on one drift pile as we passed along after dinner[,] and[,] when rounding a bend about a half mile below the forks[,] saw a deer on the bank. **Charley** dropped in front and **John**[,] putting the canoe to within four rods of her when she was feeding behind a clump of willow[,] I shot her dead [?] – one [?] buck [?] shot striking her right between the eyes. We took the carcass around after disemboweling it and reaching the forks poled up the north branch ½ mile and encamped on a high dry, hard wood [*sic – hardwood*] bank. With plenty of hard maple for wood[,] good water and enough hemlock for bedding added to a fresh supply of venison, we went into camp with light hearts and craving [?] stomachs.

Charley Lasalle [*sic – LaSalle*] lives between the two forks[;] has probably 40 acres cleared.

[This diary was contained in a notebook was given to Mrs. August (Irene) Paveglio to keep notes by John L. Buell in 1914. Irene kept house for the Buells as a young woman.]