

Pine City Militia

It by a small town like Pine City, thousands of miles from the Oceans and hundred miles from the Great Lakes qualify for the Ammory?

How? Pine City had notable men who had political power at the National and State Level.

Congressman J. Adam Bede, Born in Lorain Co. Ohio in 1856. Studied Law + learned printers trade. Work as a ~~printer~~ ^{writer} for several papers in West + South. Printed "Bede Budget" in Pine City for several years. Strong Republican supported Grover Cleveland for United States President. Served as Congressman 1903 - 1909. His humor and an excellent speaker, was in demand all over the United States. He was noted as ^{one of the} ~~the~~ most distinguished resident in Pine County.

Fred Hodge ^{Republican} born in Fransestown N. H. on Aug 18. 1853. Came to Pine City in 1877. Was elected as Pine Co Auditor, later deal in Pine land. Owned number of acres of Timber land and properties in Pine County. Served as member of the State ~~Senator~~ - 1894 - 1898. Noted in Pine City community as important part in modern progress of business interest.

Karl W. Knapp. Born in Oascola W. on March 7, 1885. graduated in 1906. Came to Pine City same year, as young man

interested in Republican Politics and progress of Pine City.

Judge Robert Wilcox born in Sunrise Minn. on April 2 - 1871

~~same year.~~ His parents moved to Pine City ~~the same year~~. Robert received his education in Pine City. In 1902, he was elected

Judge of Probate. Wilcox was a Democrat. (Has stated that he

had a relative that served United States Army & under the supervision of Colonel Sebley) Robert interested in military service.

^{Qualification} ~~Needed~~ for an Armory to be built in Pine City, ^{Required} a Naval Militia ^{Division} ~~Organization~~, a site for the building and \$1000 ^{required by the state} ^{in order to get \$5000} ^{appropriated} ^{by state}

On January 21, 1913, The Third Division was formed when 78 men ^{ages of 18-45} registered, 70 passed & mustered in by Capt.

Gay A. Eaton of Duluth. Election of officers ^{with help} Robert Wilcox, was elected Lieutenant, Dr. K. W. Knapp - Lieutenant and Fred Tepperson

Ensign. 3rd Division was the largest ever formed in State.

Stekls Hall was rented for \$20.00, where the 3rd Division met every Friday evening. Unlike the United States Navy, Pine City

Militia drilled once a week and trained two weeks on U.S.S. Hopken on Great Lakes every summer in 1913-14-15-17, but could be

called into service by the Navy whenever needed.

Early in March 1913, the Senate bill appropriated \$15,000 when cities furnished a site and \$1000 for building Militia

Armories was passed. Representative Larson of Sandstone had



Already prepared a bill to present to the House, to get the Naval Militia included in the law whereby cities furnishing \$1000: and a site were to receive \$10,000 from the State for building armories

Speaker Rines advised Representative Larson not to present the bill, but to draw up an amendment to the Senate bill and have the Attorney General ~~to~~ look it over, so that it would be drawn up right, so that after it passed the House and referred back to Senate; it would go through without any delays.

The new Bill as passed by Senate made the appropriation from any money in the Treasury, otherwise not appropriated, and not from a special fund as the old bill read.

May 2. 1913, citizens of Pine City Community met, to take steps toward the building of an armory for the 3rd Division. Following day after the meeting. Fred Hodge donated 3 lots on east side of railroad. Committee visited merchants & citizens for ~~\$1000~~ donation to get \$1000. needed. By evening, the committee had 3 lots for building site and \$1000.

~~Original #~~ 1913
 Third Division received ^{in fact} ~~the~~ uniforms ^{on} April 12. 1913. Each man received two uniforms one white & one blue with hats to match

June 21. 1913, 35 members of 3rd Division taken their first ^{short} lake trip for 2 days. More to adjust the men to an ocean trip.

Aug 7th 1913, the entire 3rd Division, with other Militia Divisions aboard ship, sailed the ~~Great Lakes~~ Great Lakes. Many squadrons rendezvous at Thunder Bay, then to Milwaukee for 6 days. Half of the crew had shore leave on alternate nights. From Milwaukee to Green Bay for 2 days. Ships in squadron were Dubuque, Don Juan, Yanita, Essex, Dorothea & Dopher. From Green Bay returned to Duluth, where crew covered 15 day trip & returned to their ^{homes} ~~armory~~.

By October 1. 1913, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~armory~~ ^{armory} was assured to be built ~~in Pine City~~. Delegation, Judge Robert Wilcox, Dr Karl Knapp, J. Adam Bede and Emel Larson met with State Armory Board at Governor's office, where \$15,000 in cash was awarded for Pine City Naval Militia Armory. In return Lt. Robert Wilcox handed \$1000 check and the deed for lots donated by Mr & Mrs Fred Hodge.

Architect's fees and other items of expense would be covered by the \$1000 voted by village Council, so that the entire fund of \$16,000 will be expended on the building.

General Contract was given to Mr Larson, Pine City local Contractor & steam heating system to Black & Co of Duluth.

Architect Mr Kelly of Duluth to determine the exact location of Armory Building

Some difficulty been experienced in disposing of the 4% state "certificates" voted for armory purpose, and delay in building the armory. However arrangements were made with proper authorities for the State School fund to buy \$100,000 "certificates" and Pine City got the \$15,000 of available cash. November 13, 1913. Began building of Armory ~~begin~~

Following year, only 15 members of Third Division taken 2 weeks training on Great Lakes.

November 6, 1914, the New Armory erected for the Third Division of the Minnesota State Naval Militia was dedicated. Attend were officers & wives from Duluth and Minneapolis (Names if necessary) Governor A.O. Eberhart was one of principal speakers. Dancing & midnite supper was served in balcony of building.

Eight ships of Naval Militia ^{from Duluth.} to participate in the formalities official opening of Panama Canal on Jan 1 1915. No records of Pine City Militia attended the opening

April 1915, plans were made at Lindstrom for an armory similar to Pine City, if accepted, that would be 5th Naval Division. All of these Division

would have
well been under the supervision of governmental authorities following the new Policy of placing all navy cadet under United States navy discipline, which was not required before. Of the four division up to April 19, 1915, existed in Minnesota: ^{very} Duluth had two deck division and one engineering division, while Pine City had one deck. Lindstrom company intended to form fourth deck division. Other towns like White Bear, Bemidji, + Crosby hoped to organize a division + building armories. (No record of Building of armory in these towns)

August 5 1915, 1st, 2nd + 4th divisions of Duluth Navy Malitia and 3rd Division from Pine City numbered about 175 men left Duluth aboard U.S. Gopher for 16 days squadron cruise on Great Lakes, Gopher ~~had~~ picked up the Isla De Luzon carrying Illinois Reserves. The two ships arrive in ~~Buffalo~~ Buffalo on Aug 9th. On Aug 11-1915, the two ships met the naval reserve fleet composed Don Juan de Austria, Detroit; Yantic, Hancock Mich; Dorothea, Cleveland; Essex Toledo, Hawk, Buffalo; Wolverine Erie possibly Sandoval, of Rochester N. Y. Approximately ~~for~~ 1,400 men ~~were~~ ^{were} on the nine Boats

Isla De Luzon was the flag ship of the fleet.

All boats were engaged in maneuvers. Target practice

boat & gun drills. Real ~~practice~~ practice was given to men aboard the 16 days trip for first time.

Annual Division inspection of Naval Militia were conducted at ^{every} Armorey.

Whether the pay for Naval Militia Men was same as the National Guard men. Appeared as they were, since both units were on stand-by - not in regular daily routine unit. Pay daily for Minn. National Guard. Rates as following:

Brigadier General \$16.⁶⁷ (1916)

Colonel \$11.¹¹

Lt. Colonel \$9.⁷²

Majors \$8.³³

First Lt. \$5.⁵⁶

Sec. Lt. \$4.⁷²

Privates 50 cents

Privates in hospital corps. 53 cents

First Class private in engineers or signal corp 80 cents

Sergeants of infantry \$1.⁰⁰

Sergeant of engineers or signal or hospital Corp \$1.²⁰

Battalion Sergeant Major of Field Artillery, Chief trumpeters and principal musician \$1.³³

First Class Sergeants of hospital Corp \$2.¹³

over

First Class Sergeants of engineers Corp. #2.17

Master electrician #2.50

By 1916, Naval Militia had new ^{divisions} ~~units~~, the new divisions mobilize at Pine City Armory, Bemidje division ^{had} 36 militiamen, Crosby 31. Lundstrom 30 Pine City 21- + Duluth 96. Special train with 11 coaches carried the Militiamen + their equipment to Philadelphia where the men aboard USS Rhode Island, where they engaged maneuvers with Atlantic Battleship fleet.

Men of Militia performed duties of regular Navy men, but no target practice. Men had shore leaves, also visited a torpedo factory. Naval inspectors accompany militiamen on the cruise.

Word came to Lt. Robert Wilcox on Feb 1. 1917, that Pine City Militia may be called for duty. "War Scare" was called.

Shortly after nine o'clock Friday April 6. 1917. Lt. Robert Wilcox received, order for him + 3rd Division to be in Duluth on Saturday afternoon, some members were out of town, second call from Capt Estor of Duluth granted the men a few more hours at home, the final departure was postponed ~~to~~ 2 AM Sunday ~~was~~. The news spread throughout the small

Names of the 3rd Division.

town. Old Glory was seen everywhere from flagstaff to
to baby carriages. ^{names of all men that left for service.}

As every war time, every one attended the Boys Departures.
many a heart was moved by ^{tears} farewells & watched as train
was out of sight, quietly ~~now~~ one by one moved toward home.

Wherever there was German Community, a fear came
over many Americans, (same as in World II, the Japanese were
feared) Guards were put out to guard grain elevators &
bridges, certain industries were ^{guard} ~~guard~~ by National Guards,
especially in small towns. Such fear was in Pine Co.
Fear that bridge may be dynamited, ^{too} a company of 16 National
~~Guard~~ Guardsmen & 2 officers uniforms & equipped arrived
in Sandstone to guard railroad bridge over Kettle River. Great
precautions were taken by our government to keep all modes
of transportation in running order, which was very important
when ^{Americans} ~~we~~ entangle ^{in the} ~~with~~ European conflict.

Home Guards were organized almost in every small
town. Young lads ^{would} ~~may~~ be trained in some ^{kind of} military
tactics. Many ^{later} were called to serve their country. Meetings
Drills. Dances were held in armory.

With the exception of Lt. Robert Wilcox 2 weeks furlough.
little is said for the third Division, ^{in 1918} if they participated in



(find the paper with number of men)

any war activities. By end of 1918, Pine City had men in armed services and they made the news, yet Pine City had ^{service} flag dedication in honor anniversary of Departure of 3rd Naval Militia on April 6 1918.

Pine City Naval Militia 3rd Division

A home for the Third Division. When the division ¹⁹¹³ was formed, 70 men registered, by 1917 only 39 men were in the ^{3rd} Division and the Division was short lived, lasted 6 yrs, and never reorganized after 1919.

As we look into the history of the Pine City Naval Militia Third Division ~~formed in 1913~~ ^{find its home} by the armory, ^{paper, expectation were high} find that when in 1913, the third Division was formed, 70 men had registered, by 1917 only 39 men remained ~~in the Division~~ ^{not only} ~~Third~~ Division was lived short lived, last only 6 years and never reorganized after 1919. and

^{find that} hopes & expectation ~~were~~ high for the new home for newly formed 3rd Division ^{their home} ~~armory~~ the armory.

How did Pine City get the Armory?

1
Naval Militia
3rd Division

Pine City Militia ~~and National Guard~~.

By Ann H. Vack.

Why a small town like Pine City, thousands of miles from ~~the~~ oceans and hundreds of miles from Great Lakes qualify for an armory?

As we look into the history of the Pine City Naval Militia, we find ^{that} when the Pine City Naval Militia Third Division was formed, 70 men registered, ~~by 1917~~, only 39 men remained in the Division ⁱⁿ 1917, ~~it~~ lasted 6 years and never reorganized after 1919.

For four years (1920-24) the armory was not used for any army or defense activities. On May 29, 1924, with 62 men, organized Battery E of 125 Field Artillery, the armory was the National Guards home for ~~6~~ ⁵² years.

Since the Pine City Naval Militia ^{3rd Division} was so short-lived and never reorganized, then how did Pine City get an armory?

Pine City had notable men who had political power at the National and State Level. ① Men like Congressman J. Adam Bede, born in Lorain County Ohio in 1856. Studied law and learned printers trade. Worked as a

Reference:

① The History of Saint Croix Valley. A.B. Easton; page 1257

writer for several newspapers in the West and South. Printed "Bede's Budget" in Pine City for several years. Strong Republican supported Grover Cleveland for the United State president. Served as a Minnesota Congressman 1903-09. His humor and excellent speaker was in demand all over the United States. He was noted as one of the most distinguished residents in Pine County.

(2) Fred Hodge born in Francestown N.Y. on Aug. 18 1853. Came to Pine City in 1877. Was elected as Pine County Auditor, later he became interested in Pine Land and properties in Pine County and Pine City. Republican served as a member of State Senate 1894-98. Noted in Pine City Community as an important part in modern progress of business interest and became owner of hundred acres of Pine Land and properties in Pine City County

(3) Karl W. Knapp. born in Osceola Wisconsin on March 7, 1885. Graduated from State University of Iowa City in 1906, receiving his dental degree, he came to Pine City

ences:

(2) History of the Saint Croix Valley. A. B. Easton: page 1264. ^{Jack} collector
 (3) History of the Saint Croix Valley. A. B. Easton: Page 1265.

⑥. March 14 1913. Passing of the bill

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opened a dental office on July 24, 1906. Became interested in Republican politics.

(4) Robert Wilcox born in Sunrise Minnesota on April 2 1871. Same year his parents and family moved to Pine City. Received his education in Pine City. In 1902, was elected Judge of Probate, held the position for many years. Wilcox was a Democrat. * (Was stated that Robert had a relative who served in the United States Army and under the supervision of Colonel Sibley) which aroused Robert interest in the Military service.

The four men worked hard to get the armory built in Pine City. Qualification for an armory, required a Naval Militia Division, a site for the building and \$1000, in order to get \$15,000 appropriated by the State. Without delay, ^{(5) Jan 31-1913} a Pine City Naval Militia 3rd Division was organized. 78 men (ages 18-45) registered, 70 men passed and mustered in by Capt Guy A. Eaton of Duluth.

Election of officers was held ^{the} same evening. Robert Wilcox was elected Lieutenant, Dr. K. W. Knapp, Lt. and

(4) History of Saint Croix Valley: Page 1271

(5) Pine County Pioneer: January 31, 1913.

* Vick Collection

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Fred Jepperson Ensign. The Third Division was ^{the} largest ever formed in the State (at that time).

* Stekls Hall was rented for \$20.⁰⁰ a month, where the Third Division met every Friday ^{night}. Unlike the United States Navy, where ^{the} 'daily' drills and training was required. The Pine City Militia drilled once a week and trained for two weeks on U.S.S. Gopher on ^{the} Great Lakes every summer of 1913-14-15 and ¹⁹16., but were subject to call int service by the Navy whenever needed.

(6) March 1913, Senate passed a bill appropriated \$15,000 when Cities furnished a site and \$1000. for building a Militia Armories. * (9) Pine City Militia Third Division was organized, (knowing that bill was on Senate floor to be voted) and lost no time working for the requirements needed to get the armory * ~~March 1913~~

(10) ~~March 19-1913~~ Representative Larson of Sandstone had already prepared a bill to present to the House, to get the Naval

- (8) Harold Kick. History of Pine City Militia (back page)
- (9) Pine Co Pioneer: March 14. 1913
- (9) Pine Co Pioneer: ~~January~~ 31-1913
- * Collection (ack) Pine Co Pioneer: May 2-1913

Militia included in the law, whereby cities ^{who} furnished \$1000. and a site were to receive \$10,000 from the State for building fund. But ~~Speaker~~ ~~Reis~~ advised Representative Larson not to present the bill, but to draw up an amendment to the Senate Bill and have the Attorney General look it over, so that it would be drawn up right, it would go through without any further delays. The New Bill passed by the Senate and House, made the ^{appropriation} ~~appropriation~~ from any money in the treasury, otherwise not appropriated and not from a special fund as the old bill read. [Do not understand the Bill]

④ On May 2, 1913, ^{Pine City} citizens, taken steps toward the building of an armory, a home for 3rd Division. At this meeting, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hodge donated three lots east side of the railroad tracks. Following day, with a Third Division organized and a site for an armory, the committee lost no time in taking the last step needed for Pine City to get the armory. Raising \$1000. The

④ Pine County Pioneer: May 2 - 1913

(2)

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Reference:

14
(14) Pine County Pioneer; June 27, 1913.

On October 1 - 1913

Committee visited the Pine City merchants and citizens, by end of the day, they had \$1000. needed.

12 Third Division received their first uniforms on April 12. 1913. Each man received two uniforms, one white and one blue with hats to match. 13 If shoes were issued was not mentioned in the distribution.

14 ~~June~~ June 1913 35 members of Pine City Naval Militia took their first short ^{port} lake trips. ~~The~~ ^{the} two day trips were made to adjust the men to ocean trips. In August, ^{of the} same year the entire Third Division with other Militia Divisions ^{boarded} aboard the Gopher and sailed the Great Lakes. Many other squadrons rendezvoused at Thunder Bay, then to Milwaukee for 6 days to Green Bay for two days. Ships in the squadron were Dubuque, Don Juan Yanita, Exxes, Gopher and Dorothea. After ~~the~~ 15 days trip, the Division returned to Duluth. No report if the Militia Divisions participated in any practice or maneuvers.

nce:

10 - Pine County Pioneer: April 18, 1913

13 Walter Blanchard personal comment: "It was important for me to get shoes, I would wear all time, "times were hard."

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On October 1 - 1913

(15) Delegation. Judge Robert Wilcox, Dr Karl Knapp, J. Adam Bede and Emil Larson met with State Armory Board at Governor's office on ~~October 1, 1913~~, where \$15,000. cash was awarded for Pine City Naval Militia Armory. In return Lt. Robert Wilcox handed the Board \$1000 check and deed for the lots donated by Mr and Mrs Fred Hodge.

Architects fees and other items of expenses had to be covered by the \$1000 voted by the village Council, so that the entire fund \$15,000. would be expended on the building.

General contract was given to Mr Larsen, (Pine City local contractor and steam heating system to Black and Company of Duluth. (Hand-Fired Boiler and Coal was used for fuel). Architect Mr Kelly of Duluth had determined on exact location of the Armory building. Some difficulty had been experienced in disposing

(15) Pine County Pioneer: October 3 1913

(16) Walter Blanchard: Personal Comments.

On October 1 - 1913

Names are available.

Reference

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of 4% State ^{certificates} certificates voted for armory purpose, ^{and was} ~~delayed~~ ^a in building the armory. However arrangements were made with proper authorities for the State School Fund to buy \$10,000. certificates and Pine City got the \$15,000 of available cash.

(17) Building of Armory began on November 15, 1913

(18) In 1914, only 15 members of Third Division ^{took the} ~~two~~ weeks training on Great Lake. They engaged in real naval Battle

Nov 6 - 1914 - 8:30 PM.

(19) Dedication of New Pine City Armory, ^{the} home for the Third Division of Minnesota Naval Militia was well attended. Governor A. O. Eberhart was one of the principal speakers. Many officers and their wives from Duluth and Minneapolis attended. (Names?) After the speeches "dancing", a midnite supper was served on the balcony of the building. (Dedication Date Friday November 6 1914 8:30 PM)

(15) Vach Collection: 1913 files

18. Pine Poker: August 14 1914.

19. Pine Poker: November 6 1914

On Nov. 14. 1914

(20) All members of the third Division of Naval Militia were request to be present ~~on November 14, 1914~~ at the Armory, to form an athletic Association.

(21) Eight ships of Naval Militia from Duluth ^{were} to participate in the formalities ^{of the} official opening of the Panama Canal on January 1-1915. No report if the Third Division participated

(22) Plans were made at Lindstrom on April 1, 1915 for an armory similar to Pine City, if accepted that would be 5th Division Naval Militia. All these Division would be under the supervision of the government authorities and would have to follow the New Policy of planning, all navy cadets ^{were} under United States Navy discipline, which was not required before of the four divisions up to April 19, 1915, ^{but} existed in Minnesota.

~~of~~ ^{following Division were:} Duluth had two decks division and one engineering division, while Pine City had one deck. Other towns like

Reference

20 - Pine Poker: Nov 16. 1914

21 - Pine Poker: March 27. 1914.

22 - Pine Poker: April 30. 1915 (Date unknown) (Duluth Herald.)

White Bear, Bemidji and Crosby hoped to organize a division and building armories, ~~up to~~ ^{until} 1915, Pine City was only small town, that had a Division and an armory.

(23) ~~the first Naval Militia trips on the Great Lakes, would be considered as cruises, no manuevers, target practice drills.~~

(24) ^{Aug 5 - 1915} First, second and fourth divisions of Duluth and Third Division from Pine City, (numbered 175 men) left Duluth aboard the Gopher on August 5, 1915 for 26 days squadron cruise on the Great Lakes. Gopher pick up the Isla De Luzon carrying Illinois Reserves. The two ships arrived in Buffalo on August 9th, two days later the two ships met naval reserves fleet composed Don Juan de Austria from Detroit, Yantic from Hancock Michigan, Dorothen from Cleveland, Exxer from Toledo Ohio and boat from Buffalo. Approximately 1,400 men were on the nine Isla De Luzon was their flag ship of the fleet. All boats were engaged in manuevers, target practice and

(25) Pine Poker. June 1915

(26) Pine Poker. July 15, 1915. Duluth New Tribune Date Unknown.

gun drills. Real practice ^{was} given to men aboard the ships for the first time in ^{the} Sixteen days cruises.

(25) Annual Division Inspections of Naval Militia were conducted in Pine City armory.

(26) Whether the pay for Naval Militia men would have been the same as for National (Minnesota) Guard. It appears that ^{it was} ~~as they were~~, since both units were on stand-by and not in regular daily routine. Both units would only ^{meet} once a week and ^{had} two weeks training in summer. According to Guardmen Earl Foster, ^{since 1937} ~~many years~~ ^{Walter Blanchard served 17 years - stated} that pay could have been the same for both units, when ~~they~~ started in National Guard (~~1927~~), their pay was 50 cents a day.

Daily pay for the Minnesota National Guard, as follows:

Brigadier General.	\$ 16.67	Sec. Lt.	\$ 4.72
Colonel.	\$ 11.11	Private	50 cents
Majors.	\$ 8.33	Private Hospital Corp.	35 cents
First Lt.	\$ 5.56	Master electrician	\$ 2.50

25 - Pine Piker: May 29 - 1915

26 - Pine County Pioneer: July 2 - 1916

27 - Earl Foster personal comments - (April 28, 1993)

First Class private in engineer or signal Corp.	80 cents
Sergeant of engineer or signal or hospital Corp.	\$ 1.20
Battalion Sergeant of Field Artillery Chief Trumpeter	\$ 1.33
First Class Sergeant of Hospital Corp.	\$ 2.17
Privates in Hospital Corp.	.80
Sergeant in Infantry	\$ 1.00
Quartermaster Sergeant, first-Class Sergeants.	
Sergeant Majors of Signal Corps and first Class Musician	\$ 1.50
First-Class Sergeants of hospital Corp. or field musician	\$ 1.67
Master electrician, Quartermaster of Coast Artillery, master signal electrician and Chief musician	\$ 2.50

The above may not ^{have} been exact pay for the Naval Militia men, but does give us, what State of Minnesota paid their military men.

26 By July, 1916, Minnesota Naval Militia had new

28 - Pine County Pioneer: July 14, 1916

Duluth News Tribune No date.

divisions which mobilize at the Pine City Armory. Bemidji division 36 militiamen, Crosby 31, Lendstrom 30, Pine City 21 and Duluth 96. With

Special train with 11 Coaches carried the Militiamen and their equipment to Philadelphia, where the men boarded U.S.S. Rhode Island and engaged maneuvered with Atlantic Battleship Fleet. Men of Militia performed duties of regular Navy men, but no target practice. Men had shore leaves, visited various sites, including torpedo factory. Naval inspectors accompanied militiamen on the cruise. Militiamen left Pine City on Thursday evening 5 o'clock, arrived at Philadelphia on Saturday morning 10 A.M.

(29) In 1916, two cruises were taken, the latter cruise ~~was~~ ^{where} all divisions assembled in Duluth. Part of ^{the} unit sailed the Great Lakes for Atlantic trip, the remaining militiamen aboard ship in Duluth, remained in the Duluth Harbor for a few days, until conclusion of the National rowing regatta, as soon as possible after the rowing regatta, the ship left ^{on} its cruise, where

(29) Pine County Pioneer; Aug 5. 1916

^{they were} met by several other training ships from other ports. Series of drills + ship manouvers. Training, drills and manouvers became more demanding with each training period since 1914. More men, ships, and wider training lake and sea areas.

(30) Describing the war scare in Pine Paker. "Each succeeding "war scare" finds the naval Militia boys here and elsewhere in the northern part of the state, prepared for whatever comes ~~that~~ but not peaking into any dark holes for bug-a-boos".

(31) March 16, 1917. Capt Guy Eaton assured the Naval Militiamen ^{that} of all division will be called, and USS. Topeka will replace the Gopher (local)?

(32) Call for Volunteers, enlistment would be for period of three years, but those belonging to the Naval Militia ^{would} ~~may~~ receive an honorable discharged at end of their enlistment in the State organization. They ^{would be} ~~will be~~ entitled

(30) Pine ~~County Pioneer~~ ^{Paker}: March 8. 1917.

(31) Pine County Pioneer March 16 1917: Duluth News

(32) Pine Paker March 16. 1917. Tribune No date.

to pay for each drill attended in the sum of one-fourth of the pay of regular seaman of the same rank. Seaman ~~will~~ ^{would} receive approximately \$1.60 ^{low} each drill attended and petty officers more in accordance with the rank.

Each man ~~would~~ received 2 suits of blue with caps and leggins, 3 suits of work whites and one dress white, white hats and 2 sea bags. At ^{the} end of the enlistment ~~this~~ ^{would be} their own property.

③ Pine City by January 1 - 1917 had 3 officers and 42 naval militiamen in their division. By April 39 men

④ "War scare" became a reality when Lt Robert Wilcox received a call on April 6, 1917, 9 P.M., his orders ^{was} to be in Duluth with the ^{P.C.} Third ^{Division} next day. Some of members were out of town, a second call from Capt Eaton, granted a few more hours, final departure was postponed to Sunday morning 2 A.M.

News spread rapidly through the small town,

33 - Pine Co. Pioneer: February 8, 1917.

34 - Pine Taker: April 12 - 1917.

plans for a program. Old Glory was seen everywhere from flagstuffs to baby carriages.

Everyone gathered at the Armory to see the Militia boys off. Father Leo opened the program with a prayer. Speeches followed, of course J. Adam Bede stirred the morning audience with rousing address and cheered "our boys."

The Militiamen Departure moved many hearts ^{to} with a teary farewell, as they watched the train was out of sight, quietly one by one moved ^{to their} homes. The men who left that morning were:

Officers

Robert Wilcox. First Lieutenant

Ottocar Sobotka, Lt. Junior Grade.

R. J. Hawley William Collins

Phill Masonneuve Oscar Duddley

⊗ William Korbel Al Oman

Fred Brandes Joseph Neubauer

Joseph Kunesh Geo. Biederman

Fred Johnson Joseph Babcock

⊗ William Korbel, still living.

John Kilgore	William Mavis
Ben Neville	Al Carlson
John Gray	Harry Ellison
Leslie Fitzgerald	Anton Oliverious
Richard Gray	Frank Fremel
Joseph Fitzgerald	M. J. Booth
Clark Pennington	Clarence Gottery
Denny Dosey	Dwight Greenley
Frank Boston	Earl Gray
Chas. Sherwood	George Stekl
George Robinson	Dewey Wilcox
Emery Blanchard	Robert Clark

R. J. Hawley ^{was} given work at home and George Stekl and George Burdeman joined the division at Philadelphia. ³⁵ Dewey Wilcox remained home ^{because of an} injured.

~~36~~ ~~37~~ ~~38~~ ~~39~~ ~~40~~ ~~41~~ ~~42~~ ~~43~~ ~~44~~ ~~45~~ ~~46~~ ~~47~~ ~~48~~ ~~49~~ ~~50~~ ~~51~~ ~~52~~ ~~53~~ ~~54~~ ~~55~~ ~~56~~ ~~57~~ ~~58~~ ~~59~~ ~~60~~ ~~61~~ ~~62~~ ~~63~~ ~~64~~ ~~65~~ ~~66~~ ~~67~~ ~~68~~ ~~69~~ ~~70~~ ~~71~~ ~~72~~ ~~73~~ ~~74~~ ~~75~~ ~~76~~ ~~77~~ ~~78~~ ~~79~~ ~~80~~ ~~81~~ ~~82~~ ~~83~~ ~~84~~ ~~85~~ ~~86~~ ~~87~~ ~~88~~ ~~89~~ ~~90~~ ~~91~~ ~~92~~ ~~93~~ ~~94~~ ~~95~~ ~~96~~ ~~97~~ ~~98~~ ~~99~~ ~~100~~ ~~101~~ ~~102~~ ~~103~~ ~~104~~ ~~105~~ ~~106~~ ~~107~~ ~~108~~ ~~109~~ ~~110~~ ~~111~~ ~~112~~ ~~113~~ ~~114~~ ~~115~~ ~~116~~ ~~117~~ ~~118~~ ~~119~~ ~~120~~ ~~121~~ ~~122~~ ~~123~~ ~~124~~ ~~125~~ ~~126~~ ~~127~~ ~~128~~ ~~129~~ ~~130~~ ~~131~~ ~~132~~ ~~133~~ ~~134~~ ~~135~~ ~~136~~ ~~137~~ ~~138~~ ~~139~~ ~~140~~ ~~141~~ ~~142~~ ~~143~~ ~~144~~ ~~145~~ ~~146~~ ~~147~~ ~~148~~ ~~149~~ ~~150~~ ~~151~~ ~~152~~ ~~153~~ ~~154~~ ~~155~~ ~~156~~ ~~157~~ ~~158~~ ~~159~~ ~~160~~ ~~161~~ ~~162~~ ~~163~~ ~~164~~ ~~165~~ ~~166~~ ~~167~~ ~~168~~ 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little was written of the ^{3rd Division} Militiamen ^{war} activities.

① See Harold Kicks article.

② Pine Poles: April 26 - 1917.

with exception of Robert Clark assigned to hospital, ^{corp}
 Al Oman to plumber's mate, Fred (Fritz) Johnson
 to machinist's mate and Oscar Dudley an electrician

Three of men did not pass physical examination
 George Biederman, John Gray and Tony Olevicious.
^{were were} Married men ~~were~~ in the Pine City Naval Militia
 Third Division. Rumors that they may be sent home

(37) Home Guards were organized ~~in~~ ^{almost} every
 small town, Pine City was no exception. During the
 war, the armory was used for the Home Guard
 for the meetings and drills.

(38) ~~It~~ Whenever there were German communities
 a fear (over came) the Americans (same as in World
 War II, the ^{American} Japanese were feared) National Guards were
 put out to guard grain elevators, bridges, certain
 industries, especially in small towns. Such fear
 was in Pine County, when feared bridge may be dynamited

(39) Pine Piker: April 26. 1917. (Sandstone Courier)

~~39~~ Pine County Pioneer: April 12. 1918. Letter

39 Astor American: April 5. 1917.

a company of 16 National Guardsmen and two officers equipped, arrived in Sandstone Minnesota to guard the railroad bridge over Kettle River, great precautions were taken by our government to keep all modes of transportation in running order, which was very important, ^{with} Americans entangled in the European Conflict. ^{Letters indicated to} Many misunderstandings and fears, as we read the letters in Pine County Pioneer, ^{some as in} many other ^{stated in many letters & newspapers} small misunderstandings during the World War II.

Letter from Lt. Wilcox was printed in Pine Poker, May 17 1917. ^{Pine City} In August of same year, ^{Pine City} the Militiamen of Pine City were on honor roll.

⁴⁰ In December 1917 ⁴⁰ 2nd Mr Harris was on the casualty list, later it was stated to ^{be} incorrect.

⁴⁰ Pine City honored ^{a one} the year anniversary of Naval Militia Third Division. ^{Departure} Little is to be found if the Third Division participated in combat with the enemy.

³⁹ Pine Co. Pioneer: December 28 1917

⁴⁰ Poker of Pioneer: March 14. 1918.

⁴¹ Pine Poker: April 1918

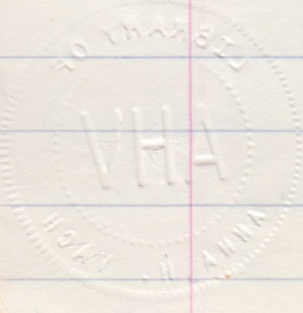


(43)

In his speeches at the Pine City Development Ass'n meeting, Lt. Robert Wilcox expressed that he ^{would} like to reorganize the Naval Militia, stated that he had the interest of eight or nine members:

Meeting date of reorganizing was set for Saturday February 7, 1920. 7:30 P.M. at the armory, but there was no report of the outcome of that meeting. Pine City Naval Militia was never organized.

Front page 1920-24 - No army or defense activities in Armory, 1921- Minn Adjutant General appointed Paul Perkins Mayor of P.C., James Boyle Treasurer of P.C. and Lt. Robert Wilcox for administrators of vacant armory. No action taken until May 29-1924 (44)



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④ Celebration on July 4, 1919, home coming for the Pine County soldiers, sailors and Marines at Pine City, with a parade, dinner, community singing, games & races, Military Ball in evening and fireworks, large crowd attended. Bands from other towns participated. Naval Militia Third Division marched in parade, with other branches of the U.S. service.

If a Home guard continued in 1920-21-22-24, ~~was~~ ^{was not} mentioned in either paper or records. ~~But~~ ^{no mention}

④ May 29 1924, Sixty-two recruits enrolled in organization of E Battery of the 125 Field Artillery of Minnesota National Guard, mustered in at armory.

Drill night was set for every Friday night 8: P.M. Uniform were to arrive before the unit leaves to Camp Custer Mich. Horses and guns ~~was to arrive~~ ^{arrived} in Pine City after the battery returned from Camp. (See Foster note on British horse drawn 75 mm. n. guns)

38. ⁴² Pine Poker. July 1919.

39. ⁴⁴ Pine Poker June 5 1924 Names of officers and non officers are available.

Notes - On the National Guard - Foster.

1936 The horses were replaced by trucks for towing
the battery's guns - Foster.

1969, a monument was erected in Pine City to commemorate
members of the Old Minnesota Naval Militia that
served in Pine City + left there in 1917 for duty in
World War I. - Foster comments.

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(45) Battery E. of 125th Field Artillery was part of unit at Camp Custer with another regiment from Minneapolis.

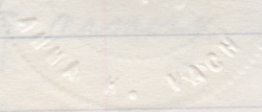
Reveille 5:40 AM. with assembly at 6: AM. Calisthenics 7:30 to 8 AM. Drill 8:15 to 11:15 AM 1:15 to 3:15 P.M. men had the balance of day for themselves except for those that were on guard and K. P. duty. These were horses and drivers training. ^{Noted} E Battery ^{Pine City} was compliment on their skills as drivers, handled the horses well. Sixty-three men and 3 officers, if this was number for E Battery or included Duluth Battery?

(46) Walter Blanchard spent 17 years in E Battery of the 125th Field Artillery in Minnesota National Guard, as Signal and field Sargent. Spent 6 months in Japan. Training, once a week at the Pine City Armory, and 10 days every summer at various camps, Ripley McCoy and Sparta? Horse-drawn cannons

(45) Battle Creek Mick Special to the Pen Paker. July 7. 1924

(46) Walter Blanchard Personal Comments.

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and equipment were used in first years, later trucks were purchased and a garage built back of the armory. The 8 horses were boarded at Pine County Fair Grounds. Each man was responsible in caring & training of his horse.

Whenever going to camp, all equipment ~~be~~^{was} loaded on flat cars and coaches were reserved for the Guardsmen.

Walter B. His father, Albert Bleschard was caretaker of Armory during absence of the third Division, Hand-fired boiler & coal for fuel.

Walter, as a child lived near the armory, he can recall a life saving boat about 30 or 40 ft long, rowed by 4 men, that Pine City Naval Militia ^{3rd Division} used, in practicing rowing.

Walter's brother Emery served in Pine City Naval Militia, also later in other branch of U.S. military.

~~Bleschard~~^{Bleschard} As young men ~~during~~ during high school days, they played basketball at armory, because it was the largest and best floor around. Most of neighboring towns had a small area, some had no place to play basketball. Most of all, the armory had showers, where none of the ^{then} towns had that luxury. So Pine City armory was always chosen for most of the activities.

Albina Sommer. recalled rolling skating at Armory.
Elaine Lucht of Grosston recall Santa Claus
Days at the armory.

Comments
from public.

Opinion had varied yes + No. - Cost, one comment
opinion varied. yes + No - Comment - once a new
roof is put on, lot can be done. ^{What we} Used - Offices
Theater, Military Museum. ~~Offices~~, Courthouse
offices. One comment - There are grants we can ask
for.

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(42) Viola Baum recalls the dances held in armory. always a good band. Recalls one nite, a few young men feeling happy scaled the ~~palisade~~^{walks} to the balcony. The armory was used for other activities.

Ruth Ann Johnson in her letter ~~recalled~~^{recalled} her school days.

⁴⁴ In my research, the activities that were held at the armory: Dances. Graduation Exercises. Basketball game. Poultry Shows. Carnival Show (1 year) ~~classes~~^{general} Classes. Drills & meetings. Drum & Bugle Drills. Rolling Skating. ~~Armory is on the National Register.~~

~~Question~~ ^{question} remains Memories are many, ^{question} remains should ~~that~~ "The ~~home~~ for The Armory, once home for the Pine City Naval Militia 3rd Division be restored? ^{type of Armory} Citizens suggestion are, ^{of Armory} Rogers Theater, more Court house space, offices, Military Museum. Cost answer

Pine City Armory is on the National Register.

- 42. Viola Baum personal comment
- 43. Earl Foster personal comment & report.
- 44. Vach Collection.
- 45. Clarence Espeseth personal comments.

1992.

May 29, 1924. Battery E, 125 Field Artillery was ~~was~~ mustered into the Minnesota Army National Guard and stationed in Pine City; the ~~unit~~ unit was equipped with British horse-drawn 75 mm. guns that had accompanied American artillery units returning from WWI.
Earl Foster comments

Feb 10 - 1941. Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 125 Field Artillery was mobilized for federal service.
Earl Foster ~~personal~~ comments.

Jan 1942

The battery traveled by train to Fort Dix, New Jersey with the 34 Infantry Division and was scheduled to leave for Europe on Troop Ship USS Normandy, but ship burned at New York side dock, causing the battery to be shipped to Fort Bragg and redesignated Battery E, 194th Field Artillery and its British 75 mm guns of WWI were replaced by American 8 inch ~~howitzers~~ howitzers. Making the Battery, one of the first in the American Army to receive the new howitzers. Earl Foster comments.

1973 Unit was redesignated Service Battery, 151 Fd. Bn. Note: With this change the Pine City Unit made its first switch, from a fighting unit into a Service Unit. Pine City area never had a population needed for a Headquarter or Administrative Unit. M. H. S.

1976 New Armory.

Revised

Armory ^{second in state.} was built a home for the Pine City Naval Third Division ^{which} was active for only ~~for~~ six years. When the Third Division was organized 70 men registered, by 1917, only 39 men remained and never was reorganized after 1919.

For four year (1920-24) the armory was not used for any military or defense activities. On Dec 21. 1921 Minnesota Adjutant General appointed administrators for the vacant armory. Committees appointed were: Paul Perkins, James Boyle and Lt. Robert Wilcox. However no action was taken until May 29. 1924, ~~with~~ ^{with} 62 men organized Battery E of 125 Field Artillery, the armory was the Minnesota National Guard home for ⁽¹⁹²⁷⁾ ~~5~~ years?

Why a small town like Pine City thousands miles from an ocean and hundred miles from Great Lakes qualify for an armory?))

1993

