

- A. B. Easton.
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Pine City Militia

It may; a small town like Pine City, thousands of miles from the oceans and hundred miles from the Great Lakes, qualify for an armory?

(How?) Pine City had notable men who had political power at the National and State level. Men like "Congressman J. Adam Bede, born in Lorain County Ohio in 1856. Studied law and learned printers trade. Worked as a 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 States president. Served as a Minnesota Congressman 1903-1909. His humor and an excellent speaker, was in demand all over the United States. He was noted as one of the most distinguished resident in Pine County.

(2) Fred Hodge born in Francaetown N.H. on Aug 18, 1853. Came to Pine City in 1877. Was elected as Pine County Auditor, later became interested in Pine land and properties in Pine City and throughout the County. Republican, served as member of the State Senate. 1894-98. Noted in the Pine City community as important part in modern progress of business interest.

(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 directly to Pine City, opened an dental office on July 24, 1906. As young man was very interested in Republican politics.

(4) Robert Wilcox born in Sunrise Minnesota on April 2, 1871. Same year his parents + 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 Dibley) which aroused Robert interest in military service.

(5) Qualification for an armory to be built in Pine City, required a Naval Militia Division, a site for the building and \$1000. ~~required~~ by the State in order to get \$15,000 appropriated by the State.

January 21-1913. The 3rd Division was formed, when 78 men, ages 18-45, registered. 70 men passed and mustered

x. Vach Collection.

- (7) Harold Kick. Report on Miltia.
- (8) Pine Co. Pioneer March 14 1913
- (9) Refer to January 31 - 1931
- (10) Pine County Pioneer May 2 1913
- (11) Pine Co. Pioneer April 18 1913
- (12) Referred to Walter Blanchard's personal comment to Skoes.
- (13) Pine City Pioneer " June 21 - 1913

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in by Capt. Guy A. Eaton of Duluth. Election of officers was held same evening. Robert Wilson was elected Lieutenant, Dr. K. W. Knapp, Lieutenant and Fred Jepperson, Ensign. The Third Division was 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. Unlike the United States Navy, (6) the Pine City Militia drilled once a week and trained for two weeks on USS Gopher on the Great Lakes every summer in 1913-14-15 and 16, but was subject to call into service by the Navy whenever needed.

(7) Early in March 1913, the Senate bill appropriated \$15,000 when cities furnished a site and \$1000 for building Militia Armories was passed.

(8) 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 furnished \$1000. and a site were to receive \$10,000 from the State for building fund.

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 look it over, so that it would be drawn up right, it would go through without any further 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.

(9) On May 2 1913, Citizens of Pine City met, taken steps toward the building of an armory for the 3rd Division. At this meeting Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hodge donated 3 lots east side of the railroad tracks.

The following day, with Third Division and a site for the armory the committee lost no time in taking the last step needed for Pine City to get the armory. Raising \$1000. The committee visited merchants & citizens and by the end of that day, had the \$1000 needed.

(10) Third Division received their first uniforms on April 12, 1913. Each man received two uniforms, one white and one blue, with hats to match. Question of shoes were issued. (11)

(12) In June 1913, 35 members of Third Division taken their

(13) Pine County Pioneer. Oct 3 1913

(14) Walter Blunck, reminiscence.

(15) Vach Coll. 1913

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first short lake trip. The two day trip was more to adjust the men to ocean trip. In August 7th 1913, the entire Third Division, with other Militia Divisions aboard the Dopher and sailed the Great Lakes. Many other squadrons rendezvous at Thunder Bay, then to Milwaukee for 6 days. Half of crew had shore leave on alternate nights. From Milwaukee to Green Bay for 2 days. Ships in the squadron were Dubuque, Don Juan, Yanita, Exxes, Dopher and Dorothea. From Green Bay returned to Duluth after 15 days trip. Little was reported if the Militia Division participated in any practice or manuevers.

(13) 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 \$1000. check and the deed for the lots donated by Mr + 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 \$16,000 would be expended on the building.

General contract was given to Mr Larson, 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 the exact location of the Armory Building.

Some difficulty had been (experimend) in disposing of 4% State (Certificates) voted for armory purpose, delayed in building the armory. However arrangement 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.

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

(16) Following year, only 15 members of the Third Division taken the two training on the Great Lake.

(17) Dedication of New Armory, home for the Third Division of Minnesota State 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 and midnight supper was served on the balcony of the building.

(18) Pine Poker Nov 16 - 1914.

(19) Pine Poker - March 27 - 1914

20 - Pine Poker April 30 - 1915 - Duluth Herald.

21 - Add. June 1915: Pine Poker.

22 - Pine Poker. July 15. 1915. Duluth News Tribune date unknown

23 - Pine Poker: May 29. 1915.

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(19) Eight ships of Naval Militia from Duluth to participate in the formalities official opening of the Panama Canal on January 1, 1915. No records if Pine City Militia attended the opening.

(20) Plans were made at Bendstrom on April 1, 1915 for an armory similar to Pine City, if accepted that would have been the 5th Naval Militia Division. 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 under United States Navy discipline, which was not required before. Of the four division up to April 19, 1915, existed in Minnesota were, Duluth had two deck division and one engineering division, while Pine City had one deck. Other towns like White Bear, Bemidji and Crosby hoped to organize a division and building armories. up to 1915, Pine City was only small town, that had a Division and armory.

(22) 1st, 2nd and 4th divisions of Duluth Navy Militia and 3rd Division of Pine City numbered about 175 men left Duluth aboard the Gopher on August 5 1915 for 16 days Squadron Cruise on Great Lakes. Gopher pick up the Isla De Luzon carrying Illinois Reserves. The two ships arrive in Buffalo on August 9th, two days later the two ships met naval reserve fleet composed Dor Juan de Austria from Detroit, Yantic, Hancock Mich, Dorothea, Cleveland, Essex Toledo Ohio, Hawk, Buffalo. Approximately 1,400 men were on the nine boats. Today, one of battleships would hold more men.

Isla De Luzon was their flag ship of the fleet. All boats were engaged in manuevers, target practice and gun drills. Real practice were given to the men aboard the 16 days trip for first time.

(23) Annual Division Inspections of Naval Militia were conducted at the Pine City Armory.

(1916) Whether the pay for Naval Militia men was the same as for National (Minnesota) Guard. Appeared as they were, since both units were on stand-by and not in regular routine. Both units only met once a week and two week training in summer.

Pay daily for Minnesota ^{National} Guard. Rates as following:

Brigadier General - \$16.67

24 - Pine County Pioneer July 14 - 1916 Duluth News Tribune

25 - Pine County Pioneer Aug 5 - 1916

(26) Pine Pioneer: March 8 - 1917.

27 - Pine Co. Pioneer March 16 - 1917 - Duluth News Tribune

28 - Pine Piker: March 16 - 1917.
Add. See Naval Volunteers

29 - Pine Piker - Feb 4 1917.

30 - Pine Piker - April 12 - 1917.

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Duluth News
Tribune

Colonel - \$11.11	Privates - 50 cents
Lt. Colonel - \$9.72	Private in hospital Corp. 35 cents
Major - \$8.33	First Class private in engineers or signal Corp 80 cents
First Lt. \$5.56	Master electrician \$2.50
Sec Lt. \$4.72	Sergeant of engineers or signal or hospital Corp \$1.20
	Battalion Sergeant of Field Artillery, Chief trumpeters \$1.33
	First Class sergeant of hospital Corp \$2.17

Duluth News
Tribune

The above may not be exactly pay for the ^{naval} Militia men, but it does give us, what State of Minnesota paid their military men.

(24) By July 1916, Minnesota Naval Militia had new division which mobilized at Pine City Armory. Bemidji division had 36 militamen, Crosby 31, Lindstrom 30, Duluth 96 and Pine City 21. Special train with 11 coaches carried the militamen and their equipment to Philadelphia, where the men boarded U.S.S. Rhode Island, and engaged maneuvers 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 a torpedos factory. Naval inspectors accompany militamen on the Cruise.

(25) In August ¹⁹¹⁶ another 150 militamen of Duluth and surrounding territory were chosen for 2 weeks on Lakes. Those who were unable to accompany the militia in Atlantic trip in July. Had opportunity to do so, rest remain in Duluth, aboard the U.S.S. Rhode Island, will spend in drilling and getting company arranged into ship divisions. Spend three days in rowing regatta, after regatta, ships cruised Lake Superior met by several other training ships, where series of drills and ship manouers taken place.

Walter Blanchard ^{as a child} recalls the Militia Boat on Cross Lake. about 30 ft ^{long}, with 4 men ~~rowed~~ oared the boat.

(26) Word came to Lt. Robert Wilcox on February 1, 1917, that Pine City Third Division Militia may be called for ~~city~~ duty. "War Scare" it was called, but on April 6 1917, shortly after 9 P.M., Lt. Robert Wilcox received orders for him and the 3rd Division to be in Duluth by Saturday afternoon,

some members were out of town, with second call from Capt. Eaton of Duluth granted a few more hours, final departure was postponed to Sunday 2 A.M. News spread quickly through the small town. Old Glory was seen every where from flagstaff to baby Carriages.

Appeared as every one in small town gathered at the train station in wee hour of that Sunday morning. A program opened with Father Leo saying the prayer, followed by an address by H. W. Harte, S. S. Roberts. Of course J. Adam Bede stirred the morning audiences with his rousing ^{address} and cheered "our boys" as they aboard the train. Boys Departure moved many hearts by teary farewell, as they watched as train was out of sight; quietly one by one moved toward home. The Boys in Blue who left that morning were:

Officers

Robert Wilcox, First Lieutenant
Ottoar Sobotka, Lt. Junior Grade.

R. J. Hawley	William Collins
Phill Maisonn ^{eur}	Oscar Dudley
William Korbel	Al Oman
Fred Brandes	Joseph Neubauer
Emery Blanchard	Geo. Biederman
Joseph Kunesh	Joseph Babcock
Fred Johnson	Al Carlson
John Kilgore	Harry Ellison
Ben Neville	Anton Oliverious
John Gray	Frank Fremel
Leslie Fitzgerald	M. J. Booth
Richard Gray	Clarence Gottry
Joseph Fitzgerald	Dwight Greenley
Clark Pennington	William Mavis
Denny Dosey	Earl Gray
Frank Boston	George Stekl
Chas. Sherwood	George Robinson

R. J. Hawley given work at home and George Stekl and George Biederman joined the division at Philadelphia. Dewey Wilcox received

Robert Clark
Dewey Wilcox

injured, when a rifle discharged during Militia drill in Armory, sent a bullet through ankle, and ~~flashed~~ wound on the other ankle. Said the bullet hole in armory floor, may seen today.

Whenever there was a German Community, a fear came over many Americans (some as in World War II, the Japanese were feared). Guards were put out to guard grain elevators, budge, certain industries, especially in small towns. Such fear was in Pine County, when fear bridge may dynamited, a Company of 16 National Guardsmen and two officers equipped, arrived in Sandstone Minnesota 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 entangle in the European Conflict.

Home guards were organized almost in every small town. Young lads were trained in some kind of military tactics, later many were called to serve our Country.

With exception of Lt Robert Wilcox's furlough, little is written for the Pine City Third Division Militia in 1918, if they participated in any war activities. By end of 1918, Pine County had ^{men} various branch of armed service and they made the news. But on April 6, 1918, a special program + flag dedicated in honor one anniversary of Departure of the Third Division.