



AN INTRODUCTION TO BARAGA COUNTY

Beginning in the seventeenth century French voyageurs, trappers, and missionaries camped in the vicinity of L'Anse at the bottom of Keweenaw Bay. Later in 1831 the Slovenian-born, Father Frederic Baraga established a mission at Zeba and then moved it across the bay to Assinins. The county was established in 1875.

The area was well wooded and timber was the basis for the local economy. Numerous immigrants were attracted to the county to work in the woods. In the 20th century Norwegians moved to the sawmill town of Pequaming where in the late 1930s a few Norwegian customs survived. Rye bread was popular along the lutefisk. "Frenchtown" in the north section of the town became home to Finns after 1900 and became known as "Finntown."

The town of Skanee, named after an area in Sweden was first settled by fishermen who fished the waters of Huron Bay. Then the area was homesteaded by Swedish lumbermen who turned to farming. In the 1930s hundreds of bushels of apples and potatoes were shipped from the area. These Swedish and Finnish farmers also were fine dairy farmers. The ghost-town of Arvon, home to slate quarries was named after a Welsh community.

REGULAR & ETHNIC POPULATION OF BARAGA COUNTY - 1910			
Political Sub- division	Total Pop.	Ethnic Pop.	Percent
Arvon Township	390	167	43%
Baraga Township	2,548	435	29%
Baraga City	1,071	286	27%
Covington Township	646	291	45%
L'Anse City	708	191	27%
L'Anse Township	2,083	494	24%
Spurr Township	460	278	60%
TOTAL	6,835	2,142	31%

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, ARVON TOWNSHIP, 1910

Occupation	Canadian	Canadian English	Canadian French	Czech (Bohemian)	Danish	English	Finn	Finn Swede	German	Norwegian	Scot	Swede	Swiss	TOTAL
Carpenter			1											1
Farm														
Farmer	1	1						1	1	3		41	1	49
Farm Laborer									1	1		5		7
Fisherman, Hunter, Trapper												1		1
Fisherman (Pulls Nets)			1						1			1		3
Lumber Camp														
Blacksmith			1											1
Cant Hooker	1		1											2
Carpenter			1											1
Cedar Maker											1	1		2
Cook			2											2
Foreman			2											2
Laborer		1	2	1				3		1		4		12
Log Loader												2		2
Teamster												1		1
Watchman						1								1
Lumber Mill														
Carloader														
Guider								1						1
Laborer							1	1				1		3
Piler								1				2		3
Superintendent									1					1
Teamster			1											1
Trim Man												2		2
Merchant Dry Goods												1		1
Merchant House Ware												1		1
Minister (Lutheran)												1		1
None	1	7	5				2	7		2		36		60
Own Income									1			4		5
Physician						1								1
TOTAL	2	11	18	1	1	1	3	14	5	7	1	103	1	167

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, BARAGA CITY, 1910

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Occupation	Belgian (Walloon)	Canadian English	Canadian French	Danish	English	Finn	Finn Swede	French	German	Irish	Italian
Baker			1				1				
Beer Agent			1								
Boarding House Keeper			1				2				
Blacksmith		1	2				1				
Carpenter		1	1						1		
Cashier (Bank)		1									
Cigar Maker		1							1		
Confectionery											
Merchant		1								1	1
Saleswoman		1									
Constable											
Drayman		1									
Farm											
Farm Laborer				1							
Farmer		1	3			1	1				
Gardener					1						
Fisherman		3									
Hardware Store		1									
Hotel											
Proprietor											
Servant							1				
Housekeeper		1							1		
Justice of the Peace		1									
Laborer		3	1			2	2				
Laundress			1								
Livery Stable Proprietor		1									
Lumber Camp											
Cook			1								
Foreman			1								
Laborer			1				1				
Lumber Mill											
Barn Boss		1									
Bookkeeper		1									
Boom Boss		1	1								
Cedar Inspector											
Decker			2								
Edger						1					
Engineer									1		
Filer					1						

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, BARAGA CITY, 1910

Occupation	Belgian (Walloon)	Canadian English	Canadian French	Danish	English	Finn	Finn Swede	French	German	Irish	Italian
Fireman			1								1
Laborer		2	3			19	20		1		
Lath Weaver			4				1				
Longshoreman		3								1	
Lumber Inspector								1	1		
Overseer									1		
Sailor											
Sawyer					1						
Scaler									1		
Setter											
Teamster		2	1								
Watchman		2									
Merchant											
Dry Goods											
General Store											
Midwife					1						
None		6	15		3	22	22		6	5	
Own Income		2									
Painter		1									
Railroad											
Section Boss											
Section Hand							1				
Retail Grocery											
Partner						1	1				
Salesman						1					
Saloon											
Bartender		1									
Proprietor		2	1								
Servant						1					
Shoemaker											
Salesman- Grocery						1					
Street Laborer (Village)	1						1				
Teamster			1								
Timber Cruiser											
TOTAL	1	42	43	1	7	45	56	1	14	7	2

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, BARAGA CITY, 1910

Occupation	Norwegian	Polish	Scot	Slovenian	Swede	Weish	Yiddish (Finn)	Yiddish (Hungarian)	Yiddish (Russian)	TOTAL
Fireman		1								3
Laborer					8	1				54
Lath Weaver										5
Longshoreman		1								5
Lumber Inspector										2
Overseer										1
Sailor						1				1
Sawyer										1
Scaler										1
Setter	1				1					2
Teamster					1					4
Watchman										2
Merchant										
Dry Goods							1		2	3
General Store					1					1
Midwife										1
None	1	2		1	11	1		1		96
Own Income					1					3
Painter										1
Railroad										
Section Boss	1									1
Section Hand	1									2
Retail Grocery										
Partner										2
Salesman										1
Saloon										
Bartender					1					2
Proprietor					3					6
Salesman - Grocery										1
Servant					1					2
Shoemaker			1							1
Street Laborer (Village)										1
Teamster										1
Timber Cruiser	1									1
TOTAL	7	3	1	2	47	3	1	1	2	286

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, BARAGA TOWNSHIP, 1910

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Occupation	Canadian English	Canadian French	Canadian Ojibwe	English	French	Finn	Finn Swede	German
Boarding House Cook								
Blacksmith								
Carpenter		2				3		
Convent, Catholic								
Baker								1
Laundress								1
Teacher								1
Copper Mill Fireman		1						
Farm								
Cook				1		1		
Farm Laborer		5		1		1	2	
Farmer	7	23		1	1	54	3	11
Garden Laborer								1
Housekeeper								
Manager								
Fisherman						1		1
Grocer	1							
Grocery Salesman		2						
Janitor						2		
Laborer		4				12	1	
Lumber Camp								
Cook		1						
Laborer		2				5	1	
Scaler (Log Train)	1							
Woodchopper		1						
None	4	28	5	2		88	2	8
Own Income		3						
Post Office						1		
Priest								1
Railroad								
Cook								
Car Repairmen								
Foreman		1				1		
Laborer	3	3				2	2	
Saloonkeeper		1						
Saw Mill								
Laborer		1						

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, BARAGA TOWNSHIP, 1910

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Occupation	Canadian English	Canadian French	Canadian Ojibwe	English	French	Finn	Finn Swede	German
Sawyer		1						
Servant (Private Family)						1		
Stamp Mill								
Carpenter						2		
Engineer		1						
Fireman		1						
Laborer						1		
Watchman	1							
Township Road Laborer		1						
Trapper (at home)								
Washerwoman						3		
TOTAL	17	82	5	5	1	178	11	25

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, BARAGA TOWNSHIP, 1910

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Occupation	Irish	Norwegian	Polish	Puerto Rican	Scot	Slovenian	Swede	TOTAL
Saloonkeeper								1
Saw Mill								
Laborer								1
Sawyer								1
Servant (Private Family)								1
Stamp Mill								
Carpenter								2
Engineer								1
Fireman							1	2
Laborer	1							2
Watchman								1
Township Road Laborer								1
Trapper (at home)				1				1
Washerwoman								3
TOTAL	4	9	17	1	2	5	73	435

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, COVINGTON TOWNSHIP, 1910

Occupation	Canadian	Canadian French	English	Finn	German	Norwegian	Swede	Swiss	TOTAL
Bartender				2					2
Carpenter			1	2					3
Dressmaker				1					1
Farm									
Blacksmith				1					1
Cook				1					1
Dairywoman				1					1
Farmer	1	5		60			7		73
Farm Laborer				36		1			37
Teamster				6					6
Woodchopper				12					12
Housekeeper				1			1		2
Laborer		3		9			1		13
Lumber Camp									
Housekeeper				1					1
Teamster				1					1
Top Loader		1							1
Woodchoopper				10					10
Manager (General Store)							1		1
None				104	1		8		113
Planing Mill Laborer							1		1
Railroad									
Section Foreman							1	1	2
Section Laborer				3				1	4
Salesman				3					3
Saloon Keeper				1					1
Shoemaker				1					1
TOTAL	1	9	1	256	1	1	20	2	291

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, L'ANSE CITY, 1910

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Occupation	Canadian English ¹	Canadian French ²	Danish	English	French	German	Irish	Norwegian	Russian Jewish	Scot	Swede	Welsh	TOTAL
Barber						1							1
Bark Peeler		1											1
Blacksmith		2											2
Captain (Lumber Tug)		1											1
Carpenter				1									1
Clerk		1											1
Dressmaker						1							1
Farm													
Farmer	1	2		2			1	1			2	1	10
Farm Laborer		1					1						2
Garden Laborer							1						1
Fisherman (Lake)		1											1
Housework								1					1
Janitor (School)											1		1
Jeweler						1							1
Laborer		5		1		4							10
Landlooker	1												1
Lumber Camp													
Contractor		1											1
Cook		2											2
Laborer		6						1					7
Lumberman		3											3
Rafter		1											1
Merchant (General Merchandise)			1						1				2
None	1	53		4		16	11	2	1	1	6	1	96
Painter		1											1
Plumber		2					1						3
Pole Yard Laborer		4		1									5
Railroad													
Roadmaster											1		1
Section Laborer								2			1		3
Retired		1						1					2
Road Construction													

¹ 3 Canadian English were further identified as Native Americans: 1 farmer, 1 none and 1 farmer.

² 3 Canadian French were further identified as Native Americans: none- 1; and 2 plumbers with their own shops.

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, L'ANSE CITY, 1910

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Occupation	Canadian English ³	Canadian French ⁴	Danish	English	French	German	Irish	Norwegian	Russian Jewish	Scot	Swede	Welsh	TOTAL
Laborer		3				1							4
Teamster		1											1
Saloon Keeper		5			1	1		1					8
Seamstress		1											1
Sheriff (County)		1											1
Store Keeper							1	1					2
Tailor							1						1
TOTAL	3	99	1	9	1	25	17	10	2	1	11	2	181

³ 3 Canadian English were further identified as Native Americans: 1 farmer, 1 none and 1 farmer.

⁴ 3 Canadian French were further identified as Native Americans: none- 1; and 2 plumbers with their own shops.

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, L'ANSE TOWNSHIP, 1910

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Occupation	Austrian	Canadian English	Canadian French	Canadian Ojibwe	English	Finn	German	Irish	Norwegian	Polish	Slovenian	Swede	TOTAL
Boarding House													
House Keeper			2			2							4
Proprietor			1										1
Servant						2							2
Carpenter			1	1					2				4
Cedar Yard, Laborer								1					
Coal Delivery		1			1							1	3
Cord Wood													
Chopper						8							8
Laborer						1							1
Electrician (Lighting Station)								1					1
Engineer (Stationary)			1						1				2
Farm													
Farm Laborer			1			36							37
Farmer		2	1	1		18	1	1	6	1		1	32
Housekeeper						2						1	3
Fisherman (Retail)									1				1
Hotel													
House Dryer									1				1
Housekeeper				1	1	1						1	4
Junk Dealer												1	1
Laborer			5	2	1	2		1	1		1	1	14
Lath Mill Laborer									3				3
Laundress													
Home				1									1
Private Family				1									1
Lumber Camp													
Cook									3				3
Foreman									1				1
Laborer	1	8	23			7						2	41
Sawyer		1	2										3
Teamster			1										1
Lumber Contractor/Dealer									1				1
Lumber Yard													
Foreman												1	1
Laborer						7			4			1	12
Tallyman									1			1	2

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, L'ANSE TOWNSHIP, 1910

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Occupation	Austrian	Canadian English	Canadian French	Canadian Ojibwe	English	Finn	German	Irish	Norwegian	Polish	Slovenian	Swede	TOTAL
Mail Carrier									1				1
Marble Worker					1								1
Mill Boom													
Laborer			2						1				3
Mill Lath													
Laborer									3				3
Setter			1						1				2
Trimmer									1			1	2
Mill Yard													
Laborer						1			3				4
Teamster			3										3
Watchman						1							1
Miner, Iron						1							1
None		5	28	2	3	58	1	2	43	1		18	161
Own Income			1										1
Poor Farm													
House Keeper			1										1
Laborer												1	1
Manager			1										1
Proprietor ("Works")			1										1
Quarry Foreman								1					1
Railroad													
Brakeman		1											1
Grader		3	2			12		2		1		1	21
Laborer		1	1			6		2	4			8	22
Section Gang Foreman								1	1			3	5
Shoreman									1				1
Teamster			2										2
Road Work Laborer				1		2							3
Sailor (Great Lakes)									1				1
Saw Mill													
Blacksmith												2	2
Carpenter			1										1
Edgeman									2				2
Filer									1				1
Foreman			1										1
Grader									1				1
Laborer			4			26			4				34
Nail Wright									1			1	2
Sawyer			2						2				4
Servant (Prvt Home)						1			1				2

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, L'ANSE TOWNSHIP, 1910

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Occupation	Austrian	Canadian English	Canadian French	Canadian Ojibwe	English	Finn	German	Irish	Norwegian	Pole	Slovenian	Swede	TOTAL
Shingle Mill													
Sawyer			1						2				3
Weaver									1				1
Steam Tug (BR Hebard)													
Cook									1				1
Fireman		1							1				2
Mair (?)									1				1
Piler									1				1
Whaleman									1				1
Watchman			1		1								1
TOTAL	1	23	90	10	7	194	2	12	105	3	1	46	494

MICHIGAN, BARAGA COUNTY, SPURR TOWNSHIP, 1910

Occupation	Canadian English	Canadian French	Czech (Bohemian)	English	Finn	German	Irish	Italian	Norwegian	Polish	Russian	Serbian	Swede	TOTAL
Boarding House														
Cook												1		1
Keeper					5			3		1				9
Servant					5									5
Farm Laborer					5				1					6
Farmer	1	1			3				1					6
Mine, Iron														
Carpenter				1					1					2
Dry House Laborer							1							1
Engineer		1												1
Foreman				2								1		3
Laborer					5						1	22	4	32
Miner				8	85		1	28		21				143
Surfaceman					2			1						3
Teamster	1				1									2
Trackman								1						1
None	6	2		5	35		1		2				2	53
Railroad														
Section Foreman									1					1
Section Laborer				1	3									4
Retired				1										1
Seamstress (Works Out)									1					1
Shoemaker					1									1
Trapper			1											1
Wood Chopper						1								1
TOTAL	8	4	1	18	150	1	3	33	7	22	1	24	6	278