

The Garland City Gazette

December
2021

The Ashland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 4
Issue 4

THOMAS BARDON

One of the Boys of '72 and Ashland's First Millionaire

By Tory Stroshane

Thomas Bardon was born on October 22, 1848 in Maysville, Kentucky to Richard and Mary Bridget (Roche) Bardon. His parents and older brother James Bardon left County Wexford, Ireland in 1836 for a new start in the United States. They lived in New York for a short time and then Maysville, Kentucky before moving to Superior in July of 1857 as pioneer settlers. Richard was a probate judge in Superior for many years.

Thomas worked as a surveyor for several years with the Northern Pacific Railway and he founded the Superior Times in 1870. He left Superior in 1872 and walked to Ashland, where he became one of The Boys of '72 — the movers and shakers who helped to build Ashland.

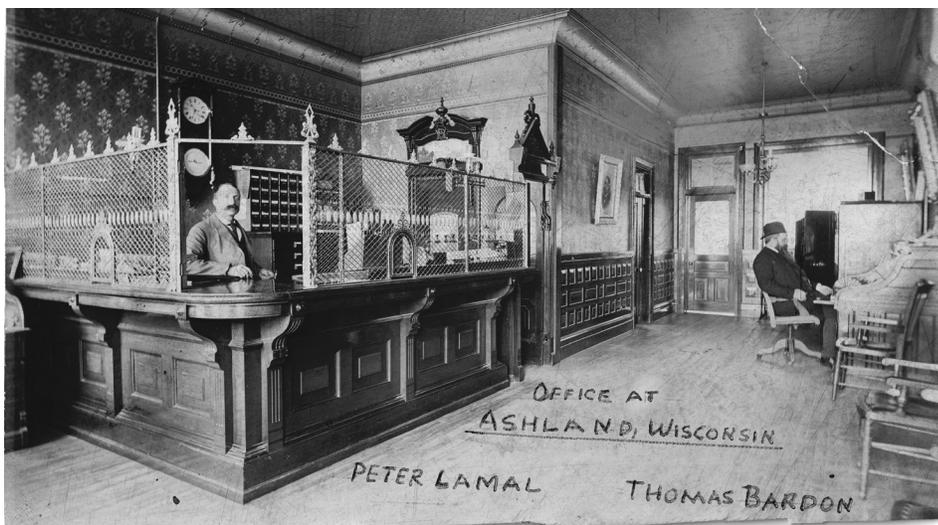
Bardon was one of the first teachers in the Ashland public schools, teaching at the old Bay City School. After his teaching stint was done, he became interested in the businesses of land, mining, shipping and insurance. He believed in the railroads and was involved in their construction in linking Ashland to Stevens Point and Superior.

Bardon made his multi-million dollar fortune by investing in land, timberlands and mining in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. He opened Ashland's first real estate office in 1872. In addition to having real estate and insurance businesses, he was also a banker and business leader.

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Inside the Bardon Building.



President's Corner



With Tory Strohane

The museum will be closed December 24th through December 25th and opening again on Monday, December 27th. The last day the museum will be open in 2021 will be **Friday, December 31st** and then it will be closed until **Friday, April 1st, 2022**. Research requests will still be taken by email. We will be reorganizing and setting up our collections during the closure. Our web site is still under construction, so email is the best way to contact us. You can also write to us at **AHSM, 216 Main Street West, Ashland, WI 54806**.

We have several new displays including the Hard Water decoy display. New gift shop items are also available for you to check out. We continue to be open Friday-Saturday-Monday from 10-3 until December 31st.

Tom Tardiff's book "*Growing Up Soo Line*" is now ready to order just in time for the Holidays. Use our email address to order or stop in.

AHSM memberships are from **January 1st to December 31st**, so if you have not renewed your membership for 2022, please do so you won't miss any Gazettes or news.

Sending you all good wishes for the holidays and the New Year to come. Thank you for your continued generosity and support, and remember to stay warm!

-THANK YOU!

AHSM Board

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Ashleigh Wadzinski	<i>Newsletter Editor</i> <i>Cruciverbalist</i>

Updates!

The new email for the Ashland Historical Society is
ashlandhistory54806@gmail.com

If you need to contact us, please use the new email address. We continue to be open **Friday-Saturday** and **Monday** from **10am to 3pm**.

Voicemails are checked only on days when we are open.

Our phone number is **715-682-4911**.



Memorials, Donors & Honorees



September — December 2021

In Remembrance Of:	By:
Grandmother Mary L. Goeltz	Jim Goeltz
Arthur & Lois Damgard	Ken & Lolene Pacholke
Ethel Mary LaFerner Tody	Susan Duoblys
Jean Smart	Jim & Dee Nemec
Tommy Ortman	Tom & Betty Yankee
Robert & Angie Pfanzer Nick & Esther Pufall	Dave & Marie Pufall
Linda Josephson	Doris Hanson
Ardath & Elaine Peacy	Diane Pomerence
Lloyd Sellung	Dererk & Kim Ogle
Becky Lou Wiberg	Jim & Tory Stroshane
Becky Holevatz Wiberg	Ray & Sue Koch
Aleah Mika Miller	Carlson Equipment Rental
Anton & Ida Johnson	Lyle Johnson

In Remembrance	By:
George Basley	Richard & Mary Verch
	Ray & Sue Koch
	John & Mary Podlesny
	Sarah Stroshane & Tammy Burke
Dennis Dehate	Richard & Mary Verch
Pat Pospychlla	Jim & Tory Stroshane

Honoring:	By:
AHSM Board	Barbara Prentice Moore

Donors
Kathryn P. Battista
Bob & Nancy Berg
Cynthia Hagstrom
Kristen Haux
John & Mary Podlesny
Tom Chvala
Steve & Andrea Tomlinson
Mary Grube
Dave & Marie Pufall
Tim & Mary Gruper

In addition to this quarter's donors, our newsletter editor would like to thank the following from *TheNounProject.com* for the use of this issue's graphics: "Star" by Ethelia Lung, "Light Bulb" by Michel Faz Fajes, and "Location" by supalerk laipawat.

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Taken in 1912, this is a photo of most of 'The Boys of '72', the group of movers and shakers for Ashland's development.

He built the Bardon Building at 518 Second Street West in 1884 and it eventually became the home of Lamal Insurance Agency. It presently houses the New England Store.

Bardon owned Ashland's first pulp mill and he incorporated the first bank and served as the President of the Ashland National Bank until his death. He was also part owner of the street railway system plus the electricity and gas plant.

He served as Ashland's mayor from 1896 to 1901 and took an active interest in politics. When he took office, he had been left with a city in great debt, but he turned that around and left the city in much better shape than it was when he took the office of mayor

For many years, Bardon was a partner with William Kellogg in a general merchandise and grocery business at 321-323 Second Street West.

Thomas married Jennie Grant Bardon in 1884. Jennie was born in New York City on August 1, 1855, the daughter of Maria and Ebenezer Grant and was raised in Winona, MN where she taught school. She lived to be 85 years old, passing away on November 21, 1939.



Peter Lamal and Thomas Bardon outside 518 Second Street.

Bardon was the city's largest landowner and taxpayer with extensive land holdings in Canada and valuable iron ore holdings in the Gogebic Range and copper mines in Arizona.

The Sam Fifields gave a reception in their honor when the newly married Bardons arrived in Ashland. Thomas and Jennie had two children: Thomas, Jr. (Katherine Peck) and Belle Bardon (Mrs. George Harland Quale). The Bardons built a large and gracious home at 104 11th Avenue West. It was filled with many lovely and expensive paintings and furnishings including oriental rugs, bronze and marble statues and boasted a library of over 1000 volumes.

When Thomas Bardon passed away from pneumonia in 1923, his estate was valued at over two million dollars, which in today's dollars would be \$31, 996, 140. His son Thomas continued to run the family businesses for many years.

Bardon's wife Jennie was very active in the local women's organizations. She was the last living charter member of the Monday Club. She served on the Vaughn Library Board and was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She was in charge of the Women's Red Cross during the war.

Jennie was a wonderful hostess and her home was always open for teas and other social occasions. She had the pleasure of hosting a reception in her home for Ashland native Fleet Admiral William Leahy, Chief of US Naval Operations.

Thomas and Jennie are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Ashland.

OVER THE YEARS

A Comparison of Portraits



A young Thomas Bardon who at the time was the President of the Ashland National Bank, among many other business interests



An older Thomas Bardon.

HARD WATER FISHING

Ice Fishing on Chequamegon Bay

By the Ashland Historical Museum Society

It won't be long before the Bay freezes up and anglers will be going out on the ice to fish. The Ashland Historical Society Museum has a new display featuring many hand-carved wooden decoys and jigging sticks used in spearing fish through the ice. The tradition of spear fishing in the frozen bay by locals has been happening for decades.

A spearing hole used to be about 16" to 24" wide by three feet long. It was customary that if one moved their fishing shack to a different location that the old hole was marked with a branch or stick. Back in the day, it was an unwritten code to be careful around the shack holes and be aware of thin ice. "On December 27 in 1938, my cousin broke through the ice at Second Landing and drowned. At the time, he was ice skating and his dad was ice fishing there", said Denny Kontny of Ashland.

Ice safety is extremely important. Anglers walk or drive 4 wheelers, snowmobiles and vehicles to get out on the ice. In the old days, bobbers would tie trees to their Model A Ford bumpers in an attempt to keep their vehicles from falling through the ice. It is recommended that you leave the truck's doors open while driving on the ice and have some safety equipment, like spikes and ropes on hand. Wind sleds were parked on the ice near Allan Tomczak's landing and in recent years, the fire department has had a wind sled for ice rescues.

Favored spots to ice fish included the Hot Pond, 1st and 2nd landing, and west of the power company, as well as out by the Apostle Islands. Chequamegon Bay

has a village of ice shacks during the winter months. Most anglers today use canvas tents, but back in the day, they were made out of wood and hauled out on the ice on runners. They were propped up on wooden blocks to keep them from freezing into the ice. As the ice flooded, additional blocking was needed. It wasn't unusual for the shacks to have had a foot or so higher of blocking by the end of the season. Side walls were banked with snow. Some shacks that were frozen into the ice were burned rather than chopping them out when it was time to remove the shacks in the spring. Shacks have to be off the ice by mid-March, although the shacks and tents can still be taken out and off daily, just not left on the ice overnight.

Many ice holes were sacred and Grampa Frank Pufall was one who held the same spot at 1st Landing. Some anglers knew to look at a hole that had some pinkish color from blood, indicating that fish had been caught there.



Wooden decoys used for spearing fish through the ice holes

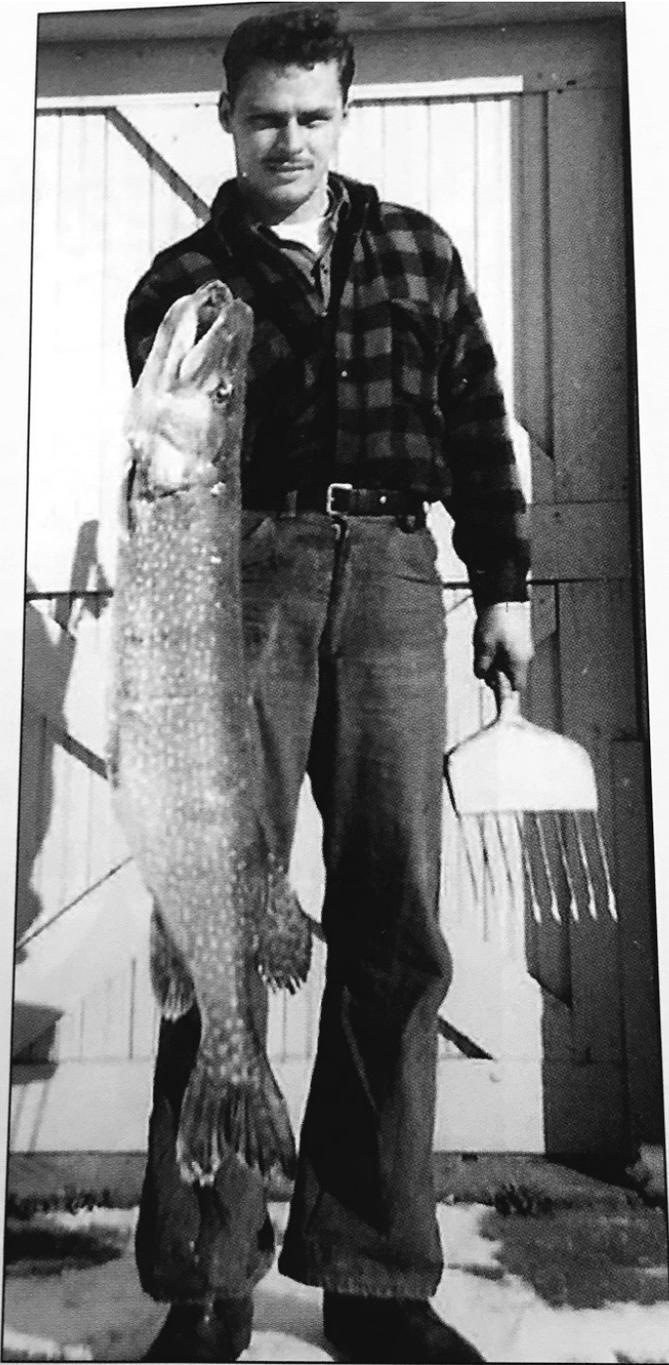


Photo 8. Wayne Carlson 1955 w/25 lb northern he speared on Chequamegon Bay. Photo Dennis Kontny

Wayne Carlson shown with a huge northern and his ice spear.

When spear fishing in ice, the inside of the shack needed to be completely dark inside to increase visibility in the shack hole and also so no light could sneak in and spook the northern. The spear was held in the water just under the surface. One never threw the spear, but pushed or jabbed it onto the fish.

The hand-carved and painted wooden decoys in the display reflect the creativity of their carver. They had metal side and back fins that were made out of what was on hand, old beer or coffee cans were a popular choice. They were weighted according to the carver's preference. Corn or eggshells along with the colorful decoys were used in the hole to attract fish.

The museum display has the decoys made by many Ashlanders. Their names are easily recognized by die-hard ice fishermen. They include: Percy Emerson, Ray Engleke, Iner and Red Kirklewski, Denny and Bill Kontny, Frank Kucinski, Wayne Carlson, Eddie Bartol, Joe Bietka, John Demboski, Moe Ledin, Tom Foris, Tom 'Tubby' Foris, Bill Chingo, Walt 'Votz' Hmielewski, Walt Danish, Tony Dietz, Dick McKinnon and Mike Kovach. Insert photos#2 and 3- Tony Kontny and Wayne Carlson

Anglers who carved their own jigging sticks that are on display include: Vic Albertson, Gus Phillips, Denny and Tony Kontny, Jim Tomczak and Bud Griffiths.

There are hair-raising stories about ice fishing on the Bay and many are recorded in a book produced in 2015 by John Esposito called *'Blood on the Ice.'*

The museum invites you to come on down to view the display. It is open **Friday-Saturday-Monday** from 10am to 3pm.



The Bright Spot

With Jim Goeltz



In my reporting of Ashland High athletics for the Daily Press, I had little opportunity to watch those of DePadua. Of course Ashland and DePadua played two games each year against each other in which I reported. I remember back then that the DePadua fans would always refer to Ashland High as ‘the high school’. Ashland fans would refer to DePadua as ‘DePadua’. The 1940-41 games were memorable since DePadua won both games. After taking an 8-0 victory run in the series, when Dodd Gym opened in 1938, the Bruins began a losing streak. From 1938 on into the 1950s, DePadua won the two games in 1941 and a split was recorded in 1947. Other than that it was all Ashland high.

The two 1941 games were interesting not only because DePadua won two close 4-point games. No, the DePadua yearbook of 1941 featured the basketball team, but also their cheerleaders. Dolly DeHate led the group which also consisted of Jeanne Zak, June McKinnon, Virginia Paiment, Jeanne LaVasseur and Betty Peterson. They not only cheered on the A team Bruins but also the B team and the Baby Bruins. The A Team was good, beating Ashland twice and finishing with a 12-5 record. The B team, which accompanied the A team on most trips, compiled a 5 and 8 record. On the other hand, the Baby Bruins (the grade school team), won all 17 games played. No wonder, since they had a roster of Jim Hoppenyan, Jim Pentony, Dave Wartman, Don Paitl, Jack Pentony, Ray Freascher, Bob Molaski, Bob Sullivan and Ed Brown.

Even though the team did well, it was the girls’

cheerleading which caught everyone’s eye. Virginia Paiment was evidently the scribe for the group as the 1941 yearbook reflected some of her prose and poetry. Her prose included personal comments about each of the A team members. It was her coverage of the January game against Ashland that caught my attention. It was a 36-32 overtime win.

*“Bill Innes, so dependable, sinks the ball to score,
And again the Bruins show, DePadua’s might once
more.*

*The whistle sounds – the game is won, the Joy of victory
swells, Congratulations to the team, is shown by rabs
and yells.*

*The Ashland team shows sportsmanship, proves worthy
of their name,*

*By congratulating the team, with “nice game, fellows,
nice game”*

*And Depadua’s student body, and the faculty as well,
Say, ‘we’re proud of our team.’ And ‘Nice game, fel-
lows, it was swell”*

- Virginia Paiment ‘41

Historical Holidays



The infamous Star of the East that rested above the Soo Line trestle by Stuntz Avenue.



Christmas on Second Street. Lots of people would like to see these decorations come back, but part of the problem is the light poles do not line up and large trucks would not be able to access the street.

Thank you to
Heart Graphics
for printing this
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THE GARLAND CITY GAZETTE

Ashland Historical Society
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Ashland WI 54806-1513

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Ashland Historical Society Membership Form

Membership includes family or single member and includes the quarterly "Garland City Gazette" newsletter and 10% off of Museum Gift Shop purchases.
Donations, Memorials and Honoring individuals always appreciated.

Member Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership is \$15 per calendar year.

Membership fee: Donation: Memorial/Honoring (Circle One)

\$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____

Memorial or Honoree Name (s): Please print clearly.

Total Enclosed: _____