

# Marquette County Historical Society



Date March 19, 1923

Biographical Record of Addison A. Cole

Will you kindly answer the following questions, in order that for future reference, there may be a permanent record of yourself to file among the papers of the Marquette County Historical Society. Additional facts which you desire to add, may be written on the back of this sheet. Return this to L. A. Chase, Secretary of the Marquette County Historical Society, Marquette, Michigan.

What is your full name? Cole, Addison A.

When were you born? Oct. 31, 1843

Where were you born? Wales Center N.Y.

What was your father's name? Isaac Cole

What was your mother's name? Betsy Hall Cole

Is either of your parents still living? No Where? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you married? Oct. 17, 1865 Where? Wales Center N.Y.

To whom were you married? Harriet Rebecca Minton  
Edith Francis Minton

Is your wife or husband still living? Yes

When did you come to Marquette County? July 8, 1865

From what place did you come here? Indianapolis Ind.

By what means and what route did you get here? train to Green Bay - boat.

In what work have you engaged, since coming here? Railroad. Bookkeeper.

(State name of employer or company for whom you have worked) Baydenac, Marquette

Houghton, R. R. Marquette & Superior Life Insurance Co.

Where are you now living? (Give Post Office address) Marquette

The following information is desired:

Your Children: .....

NAME

Present age or age  
at death.

Residence

*James Cole*

*56*

*Chicago Ill.*

From what country did you or your ancestors come to the United States?.....

Any facts or anecdotes relative to the history of Marquette County, Michigan, may be added here or on the reverse side of the sheet.

At the time of the fire in Marquette in 1868  
Mr. Cole was employed at the ore docks.  
The railroad shops and carpenter shops  
were on Front St. beginning at Washington  
St. The railroad owned 4000 ft. of hose  
on which the entire city depended in case  
of fire. There were two reservoirs supplied  
by a small stream, one was on Baraga  
Avenue and the other on Front St.  
The first building to burn was the railroad  
shop which contained the hose leaving  
as the only means of fighting the fire a



small hand pump. The whole business section burned during the fire including all of the ore docks except the Cleveland Chaff's.

At that time the largest ore boat carried around five tons and was considered huge. Mr. Cole while waiting for the railroad and ore docks, weighing cars, carrying ore, was the first man to weigh them without uncoupling the cars. Before this time every car had been uncoupled and accidents had occurred when the cars would go off the scales and down the grade at too great a rate of speed either bumping into and smashing other cars on the track or burying themselves in the sand at the bottom.

There were a number of furnaces at that time all engaged in the manufacture of pig iron. Among these were the Jackson, the Morgan, and the Greenwood.

All of the hardwood was cut from the surrounding forests and was made into charcoal.

One of Mr. Cole's ancestors, Lyman Hall, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He and four brothers fought in the Revolutionary War and Mr. Cole fought in the Civil War.