Interviewed by Gladys O. Eymer.

Marquette County Historical Society.

MARQUETTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date Oct. 15, 1924

Biographical Record of Mrs. John W. Spear.

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? Sarah Hampton Spear.

When were you born? Providence, R. I.

Where were you born? July 23, 1850.

What was your father's name? Thomas Otway Hampton.

What was your mother's name? Mary Ann Ball.

Is either of your parents still living? No Where?

When were you married? 1869 Where? Marquette, Mich.

To whom were you married? John Wilder Spear.

Is your wife or husband still living? Yes.

When did you come to Marquette County? Oct. 18, 1867.

From what place did you come here? Syracuse, New York.

By what means and what route did you get here? N. Y. Cent. to Buffalo, R. R. to Cleveland, Steamer "Metior" to Marquette.

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

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

Where are you now living? (Give Post Office address) 914 E. Ridge St. Marquette, Mich.

The following information is desired:

Your Children: One son.

NAME	Present age or age at death.	Residence.
Jay Wilder Spear	45	1602 Ogden Ave. Superior, Wis.

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

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

When I came to Marquette in 1867 it was about 3000 inhabitance. There was a small foundry owned by Mr. Merrit, located where the L. S. and I. depot is now situated, and a printing press. There were three hotels, the Northwestern located just north of Cain's Rock and open only to tourists during the summer; The Tremont between the Railroad tracks and Baraga Street was open all the

year; and the Tibbets House which stood where Mr. Mathew's house stands now on the corner of Blaker and High Streets. Mr. T. O. Hampton built the Rolling Mill. There was a blast furnace on Lake Street which never paid. There were four churches. The Episcopalian, a wooden structure, stood on its present site. This is now the German Lutheran church. The Presbyterian stood on Washington Street where the gas station now is. The Baptist, a little white wooden structure, stood on the site of Goine and Palmer's garage. The Roman Catholic occupied its present place.

Dr Taft and Dr. Northrop were here and Dr. Smith came in the spring of 1869.

In 1868 the great fire occurred. It swept out everything between Baraga Ave. and the Commercial Club, which was then under construction as a residence for the Campbells. Mr. T. O. Hampton then lived in what is now Dr. Buck's Dairy, and it was only by the combined efforts of the women folks of the house in applying water, by means of a pail and dipper, to the roof, to extinguish flying sparks, that this building was saved. Their goods were put into the basement of the presbyterian church which was then being built, to be safe in case their house burnt.

In 1871 there was a high school where the present high school is

on Ridge Street called "The Union High School", and three grade schools.

Marquette was incorporated as a city in February 18, 1871, with a mayor, recorder and common council. The old court house was where the present one is at present, gas and water were put in by 1871.

There were only pine trees about Marquette at that time, and the place was quite open, so that the evenings seemed to be very long. The snow fell to great depths, but was very dry. Indeed the ladies made calls in white dresses without getting them the least damp for the snow shook right off. The first season I was here nearly all snow and rain fell at night.

The ice froze thick and smooth, and skating was the chief pastime in winter. We skated to the Island and saw the cave at the East side many times. Later an enclosed rink was built where Longyear's field is at the foot of Ridge Street. A stage ran out there in the evenings, and should it's horn blow lustily, the skaters knew the ice was good. The snow piled high near Mr. White's residence and if the stage succeeded in getting past without tipping over, the occupants considered themselves lucky.