

Who was who in Washburn

CS 5117112

3 people worth knowing about

George W. Glazier was born on Sept. 19, 1880, in Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada. By 1909, he was in Washburn, impressing everyone during the Labor Day celebration with his "flaming man" stunt, in which he slid down a cable from the top of the grain elevator to the water, with burning gasoline marking his progress. The Washburn Times noted that "A successful landing was made into the bay."

Later that fall, he purchased the first car in Washburn, described by the Times as "a large tourist car." He took up the sport of log rolling, or birling, and was instrumental in bringing the world championship birling competitions to Brownstone Bowl in the Town of Bayview in the 1920s.

Glazier was a champion log roller, touring the United States and Canada, giving exhibitions and continuing to compete into his early 60s. In later years, he gave speedboat rides from the Memorial Park dock around the buoy and back, and operated a boat that carried passengers to the Apostle Islands. He died in Ashland on June 4, 1973.

David Monroe was born Jan. 15, 1857, near Ottawa, Canada, the son of David and Hannah La Fleur Monroe. When he was 6 years old, the



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family moved to Clayton, N.Y., where he grew up. On July 10, 1863, when he was 16 years old, he enlisted in Company M of the 20th New York Cavalry Regiment.

The company first saw action against Confederate forces in early January 1864, with occasional encounters at various locations thereafter, then participated in the siege of Richmond until the war ended.

On July 31, 1865, Monroe was discharged and spent the following 43 years in Michigan, working in the woods in the winter and in the sawmills in the summer, and occasionally sailing on the Great Lakes. In 1871, he married Eliza Gaines at Harrisville, Mich., who died four years later.

In 1903, Monroe moved to Washburn and was employed for many years as a timber cruiser. He served on the city council and the

Bayfield County Board of Supervisors and was a member of the Masonic fraternal lodge.

On Jan. 15, 1905, he married Elizabeth Thompson, a widow, in Washburn; she died in January 1945. As the only surviving Civil War veteran in Washburn, Monroe became a local celebrity as he grew older, with elaborate birthday parties in his honor.

On his 98th birthday, in January 1945, the Times described him as "Still mentally alert . . . and as strong and vigorous in body as many men 20 years younger." A large birthday dinner party was held, presided over by the "aged veteran." It was to be his last birthday celebration, for he died a few weeks later, on March 8, 1945.

Alfred Oscar Swanby was born on Dec. 1, 1893, in Washburn, the son of Hans and Anne Swanby. He attended school in Washburn and was a star football player in high school. Later he moved to Vancouver, British Columbia, where on April 13, 1915, he enlisted in the Canadian Army.

He embarked for England in June 1915 as a member of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The following December he was sent to France. From then to August 1918 he was in almost continuous combat against the Germans in France, except on two occasions, from April to October 1916

and April to November 1917, when he was in England recovering from wounds.

In letters published in the Times in 1917, Swanby described two of the many battles in which he had fought, the terrible battle of Somme River from July 1 to Nov. 17, 1916, which resulted in about 600,000 casualties on each side, and the battle for Vimy Ridge April 9-14, 1917, taken by Canadian troops at a cost of 10,500 casualties.

He said little about his own experiences, except to note that he had "contributed his share" to Allied victories. The award on two occasions of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, second only to the Victoria Cross in British military honors, testified that he had done more than his share. The citation for his first DCB reads, "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty; and for his second DCM, "For courage, coolness and organization during an attack." He was awarded several other medals and was mentioned in dispatches.

Swanby was discharged as a lieutenant on Aug. 31, 1919. He remained in Washburn for about a year after his discharge, then returned to Vancouver. There he married and was employed by a lumber company in several management positions.

Despite suffering from the effects of multiple wounds and gassing, he was denied a pension by the Canadian government. He died on March 15, 1929, in Vancouver.