

Who was who in Washburn

George W. Glazier was born on September 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 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. He 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 on January 15 1857, near Ottawa, Canada, the son of David and Hannah

La Fleur Monroe. When he was six years old the family moved to Clayton, New York, where he grew up. On



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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 he 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, Michigan, who died four years later. In 1903 he 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 January 15

1905 he married Elizabeth Thompson, a widow, in Washburn; she died in January 1945. As the only surviving Civil War veteran in Washburn he 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 December 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, he described two of

the many battles he had fought in, the terrible battle of Somme River from July 1st to November 17 1916, which resulted in about 600,000 casualties on each side, and the battle for Vimy Ridge from April 9 to April 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. He was discharged as a lieutenant on August 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.