

OJANPERA

August Ojanpera and Kustava Kyllonen.
[from Kustava Ojanpera, July 28, 1975. R.S.]

August was born in Seinajoki, Vaasaland in 1888. The family emigrated to the United States in 1902, and settled in Hooton, Hancock County, Michigan.

Kustava Kyllonen came to America in 1903 when she was fourteen years old. The year before, her father Matti had come out and found work in a coal mine in Hancock, Michigan, although he had been a shoe maker in Finland. The next year he was joined by his wife and two daughters, Kustava and Riika.

August and Kustava were married in 1908 in Michigan.

In 1912 the couple moved to the Sudbury district with the three children born to them in Michigan.

August worked as a miner in Crean Hill, Kirkwood Mine (behind Garson), and Levack - a year or two at each. Two more children were born to them in Canada. Then they spent three years at Wanup, where Joelli, August's father, was now living on a farm. Neither in Wanup nor in the mining towns, were there schools for the children.

In 1920, they came to the farm homestead in Denison Township on the first of May. The place had been owned by a man named Boucher (the Finns pronounced his name "Bushy"), the C.P.R. section foreman who lived in Whitefish.

August bought a house in Whitefish and moved it to the farm. After the Ojanperas had settled in Denison Township, August worked out in lumber camps for two winters. He would be away from home for three months at a time.

Emil, the third child and oldest son, was married to Maila Tuomela in 1944. They had two children born in 1945 and 1946.

In 1946 August and Kustava moved from the farm to a cottage on Lake Penage, that they already owned.

In 1958 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

In 1963 they built a small house on a part of the farm, west of the Penage Road.

In 1965 August Ojanpera died and was buried in the Whitefish Cemetery.

Kustava died in November 1976