

Eugene Ripley Sly
1841 - 1922

Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan

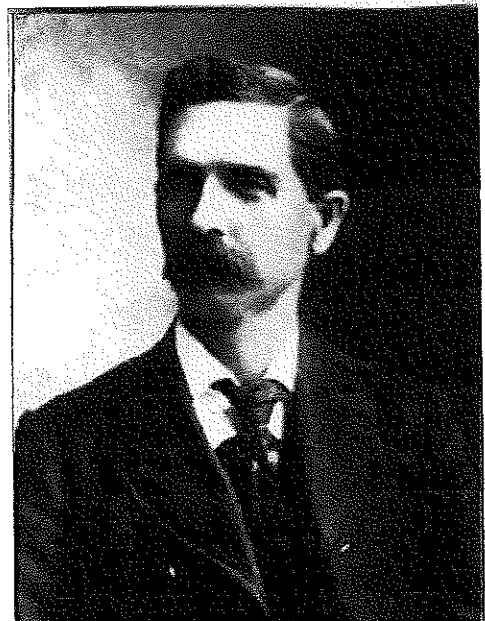
Eugene Ripley Sly 1841 - 1922

where he engaged in the **hay and straw pressing and shipping business**, thence after a limited period went to **Lexington** in the interest of the **Lockport Paper Company**, which concern he continued to represent until 1884 when he resigned his position and came to **Northern Michigan**, having previously purchased land in this part of the state with the object in view of embarking in the manufacture of lime. Locating at **Petoskey**, where his brother, **Rev. W. S. Sly**, had settled some time before, he organized the **Petoskey Lime Company**, and at once began operations on his land which contained almost inexhaustible deposits of fine lime rock. From a comparatively small beginning the business soon grew to enlarged proportions and in the course of a few years became one of the leading industries of the lake region. A large number of men were given employment and in due time the company's headquarters became the nucleus of a thriving settlement which continued to increase in population and importance until there grew up the thriving village of **Bay Shore**, one of the most beautiful and prosperous business points on **Lake Michigan**. In the fall of 1900 this company consolidated with the **Elk Portland Company** at **Elk Rapids**, since which time the business of the concern has been transacted from the general offices at **Petoskey**. In April, 1904, the subject was elected general manager of the combined business.

The town of **Bay Shore** contains **two well-stocked General Stores, Cooper and Blacksmith Shops, two Churches, a Grade School, a well-organized Fire Department** and the best system of **Water Works** of its capacity of any town in the state. Also a **Mill** for the manufacturing of lumber, broom handles and heading. The business of the place is under the immediate control of the company and the populace, which at the present time numbers about three hundred souls, obtains its chief support from the enterprise which gave rise to the town and to which its growth and prosperity are almost wholly due.

Mr. Sly is entitled to much praise for the leading part he took in establishing the important industry of which he was long the ruling spirit and in the management of which he has displayed executive ability of a high order, and still keeps in close touch with every interest of the company, giving it the

benefit of his sound judgment and ripe experience and by his wise counsel and considerate methods contributing greatly to its success. As already indicated, he is a man of force and action, foreseeing with remarkable accuracy the future outcome of plans which are formed only after mature deliberation and executed with no thought of miscarriage or failure to impede their progress. In political affiliations, **Mr. Sly** is a **Republican**, but has never been a partisan, much less an office-seeker, being first of all a business man and making every other consideration subordinate thereto. In matters of public interest he has never been negligent and all worthy enterprises whether for the material advancement of the community in which he resides or for the social and moral welfare of the people have found in him an earnest and liberal patron.



Eugene Ripley Sly

Mr. and Mrs. Sly consist of two sons and two daughters whose names are as follows: **Elliott M. Homer, Loraine {wife of O. C. Atwood}**, and **Ruth** all doing for themselves except **Ruth** the youngest who is still with her parents.

Extracted Biographical History of Northern Michigan

Eugene Ripley Sly 1841 - 1922

A dry recital of a man's career can convey no proper notion of what manner of an individual he is in his methods, his ideals and his influence among his fellows. Only those who come in personal contact with **Eugene R. Sly**, the founder and leading spirit of the flourishing town of **Bay Shore**, can understand how thoroughly nature and training, habits of thought and action, have enabled him to accomplish his life work and made him a fit representative of the enterprising business class of people to which he belongs. He is a fine type of the sturdy, conscientious American of today, a man who unites a high order of ability with courage, patriotism, clean morality and sound common sense, without stopping to think that his virtues are above the ordinary, doing thoroughly and well the work that he finds to do and asking praise of no man for the performance of what he conceives to be his simple duty.

Eugene R. Sly was born at **Gaylen, Wayne County, New York**, December 27, 1842, and when a child accompanied his parents upon their removal to **Illinois**, in which state he grew to manhood. His father, **Seneca Sly**, was a grocer in his native commonwealth and in addition to the line of business spent considerable time as a **lock tender** on the **Erie Canal**. He came west during the construction of the **Illinois and Michigan Canal** and settled in **Will County, Illinois**, about three miles north of **Joliet** and one mile north of the place now the present site of **Pendentry**, where he purchased land and engaged in agricultural pursuits. His farm bordered on the **Canal** and he added considerably to his means by selling wood which was shipped to the larger cities through which the water ran. The early life of the subject was spent in close proximity to the **Canal** and he distinctly remembers seeing the first boat that plied the same, the "**General Fry**" which passed his home the spring following the family's arrival in **Will County**. When old enough he was assigned the task of driving the horses which furnished power for his father's wood saw and when not thus engaged worked on the farm, attending of winter seasons the public schools of the neighborhood. When twelve years of age he went to **Praire Farm**, where he remained until 1862, at which time he responded to **President Lincoln's** second call for volunteers by enlisting in **Company C, One Hundredth Illinois Infantry**, with which he shared the fortunes and vicissitudes of war until taken prisoner at the battle of **Chickamauga** on September 20th of the following year, having previously participated in the battle of **Murfreesboro** and several minor engagements. Shortly after his capture **Mr. Sly** was sent to **Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia**, thence a few weeks later to **Danville** where he remained until his removal to **Andersonville** in May, 1864. After spending five months in the latter place he was transferred to **Florence, South Carolina**, where he continued

in "durance vile" until the following February when he was sent with others to **Wilmington, North Carolina**, where he was paroled after seventeen months a prisoner of war. Unlike many of his comrades and fellow prisoners, **Mr. Sly** suffered little from the effects of his confinement, for the reason that he was unusually strong and healthy and could withstand without fatigue and break-down almost any amount of hunger, labor or indignity to which he was subject by his captors. **Mr. Sly's** military experience lacked but a few days of three years when he received his discharge and returned home, his mother having died while he was in prison, thus breaking up the family. His father subsequently moved to **Plainfield, Illinois**, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in that town at the advanced age of eighty-one years.



Eugene R. Sly (1841 - 1922)

After cultivating the homestead for a number of years, the subject purchased a farm in the same neighborhood and on the 16th of December, 1868, took to himself a wife in the person of **Miss Emma J. Spicer** of **Will County**. Thereafter he set up his domestic establishment on the farm where he continued to live and prosper during the ensuing sever years, meantime adding to his real estate until at the expiration of the period noted his holdings consisted of two hundred acres of fine land admirably adapted to the purposes of agriculture and live stock. At the end of the above time **Mr. Sly** discontinued farming and moved to **Lockport**

Eugene Ripley Sly
Obituary 1841 - 1922



FOUNDER OF VILLAGE OF BAYSHORE
Eugene R. Sly Passes Away At Home In Benton Harbor

Eugene R. Sly, founder of the village of Bayshore and in the lime business carried on at that point, died Sunday morning, May 28, at Benton Harbor, in which city he had made his home for the last four years.

The remains were brought from Benton Harbor to Bayshore, Tuesday, and the funeral held from the residence of his son, Homer Sly, at Bayshore at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday afternoon. The services were in charge of Rev. Yourd of Benton Harbor, interment in Greenwood Cemetery.

Deceased was a Civil War Veteran and was engaged in the battles of Stone River and Chickamauga. He spent seventeen months in southern prisons at Florence, Libby and Andersonville.

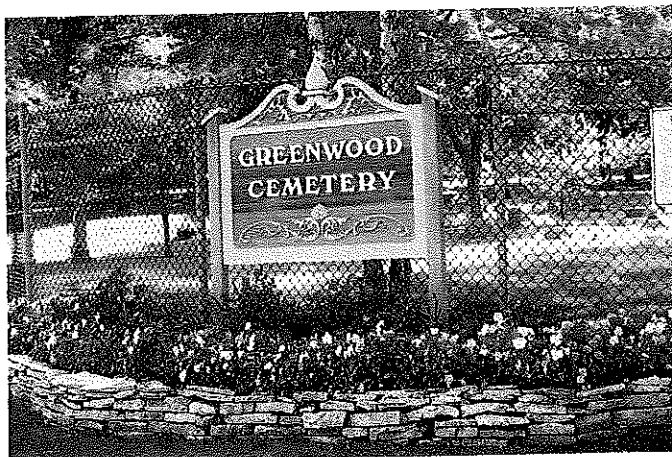
He leaves four children. His life was characterized by sterling honesty and uprightness. His word was never broken. His loss will be felt through all northern Michigan.

Extracted from Charlevoix Courier, Wed. May 24, 1922
 Price 2.00 per year



E. R. Sly, an old resident of Bayshore, died at Benton Harbor, May 28, after an illness of about two years. His remains were brought to Bayshore Tuesday, the funeral beginning held from the home of his son, at 2:30 on May 30. He leaves to mourn his departure a wife, two daughters, two sons, several grandchildren & a host of friends. Interment in Greenwood cemetery.

Extracted from Charlevoix Courier under Hayes, Wednesday, May 5, 1922, page 5



Section K, Block 95, Lot 2

E. R. SLY DIES AT BENTON HARBOR
FOUNDER OF THE VILLAGE OF BAY SHORE
PASSES AWAY SUNDAY MORNING
Funeral From Home Of Homer Sly At Bay Shore At
Bay Shore Tuesday Afternoon Burial In Greenwood.

Eugene R. Sly, founder of the village of Bay Shore and of the Lime Business carried on at that point, died Sunday morning, May 28, at Benton Harbor, in which city he had made his home for the last four years.

The remains are being brought to Petoskey and will reach here Tuesday morning. The funeral will be held from the residence of Homer Sly, at Bay Shore, at 4:00 Tuesday afternoon. The services will be in charge of Rev. Mr. Yourd, of Benton Harbor, and interment will be in Greenwood.

Eugene R. Sly, son of Seneca and Sallie Sly, was born on December 27, 1841, at Galen, state of New York. When a small boy he emigrated with his parents to Illinois, locating on a farm near Joliet. The party made the trip to Chicago from Buffalo by boat, going out of Chicago in a covered wagon, as there were no railroads out of Chicago at that time.

Mr. Sly was attending school in Chicago when the Civil War started. He returned to Lockport, hi home town, and on August 7, 1862, enlisted as a private in Company C, 100th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was engaged in the battles at Stone River and Chickamauga. At the battle of Chickamauga he volunteered to remain and care for wounded and was made a prisoner of war. He spent seventeen months in southern prisons, Florence, Libby and Andersonville. When war ended he was paroled and finally discharged at Springfield, Ill., on May 25, 1865.

He married on December 16, 1868, at Lockport, Ill., Emma J. Spicer. Surviving are four children, Elliott M. Sly, Belle Fourche, S.D.; Homer Sly, Petoskey; Loraine Atwood, Benton Harbor, and Ruth Pennell, Kalamazoo; two brothers, M. F. Sly, Ortonville, Minn., and also Winfield S. Sly, Lansing, Mich., and one sister, Mrs. Rosetta Felt, Gary, Ind.

Mr. Sly spent his early years on a farm near Lockport, Ill. He was in business at Lexington, Ill., for a time. In 1885 he came to Petoskey and established the lime business at Bay Shore, which village he founded. He retired from business in 1911 and for the last four years had resided at Benton Harbor. For a number of years prior to moving to Benton Harbor he was a director of the First State Bank of Petoskey.

Mr. Sly's life was characterized by sterling honesty and uprightness. His word was never broken. He was a charter member of Inawandiwin Lodge, No. 56, Knights of Pythias and for a number of years was a member of Lombard Post G. A. R., later transferring to George H. Thomas Post, at Benton, Harbor

Extracted from Petoskey Evening News {Greenwood Cemetery Records} Monday, May 29, 1922

**Emma Jane {Spicer} Sly {wife of Eugene Sly}
Children of Eugene Ripley & Emma Jane {Spicer} Sly**

Emma Jane {Spicer} Sly

B. October 26, 1849

Marr: December 16, 1868

Lockport, Illinois

D. April 24, 1936, age 86

Burial: April 26, 1936

Greenwood Cemetery, Petoskey, MI.

Section K, Block 95, Lot 3



Known children of Eugene & Emma Sly

Elliott M. Sly B. circa 1890

Homer Sly B. October 1, 1871, Lockport, Ill.

Lorraine {Sly} Atwood B. 1875

Ruth {Sly} Pennell B. January 27, 1883

Ruth Pennell Rites Thursday

Graveside services for **Ruth Pennell**, 91, of Ann Arbor, will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at **Greenwood Cemetery**. **Rev. Robert Kyser**, of the first **Presbyterian Church**, will officiate. She died Monday at **Cedar Knoll Rest Home**, in **Jackson**.

The former **Ruth Sly** was born January 27, 1883 in **Lockport, Ill.** She married **Eugene Pennell** in 1908 and he died in 1940.

Mrs. Pennell was a member of the **First Presbyterian Church**, in **Kalamazoo**. Her brother, **Homer Sly**, served the City of **Petoskey** as mayor in 1912.

Survivors include a daughter, **Mrs. Jane Erickson**, of Ann Arbor; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Arrangements in Ann Arbor were handled by Muehlig Funeral Chapel, of Ann Arbor and local arrangements were handled by the Stone Funeral Home.

Extracted Petoskey News-Review, September 18, 1974

Greenwood Cemetery Records

Section K, Block 95, Lot 1