



FRANCIS KEMPE

“An ethnic oddity in a group of all Americans”

As a German/American, Francis was a member of the Aurora Ski Club “All Americans” along with George Thompson, an Irish/American and the other eight from Scandinavian origins. All but one were born in Red Wing, MN.

This group from the Aurora Ski Club, Red Wing, MN was dubbed the “Skiing Dudes” by the newspaper reporters as they arrived for a ski tournament in Michigan all dressed up.

The Ski Club evolved into a ski jumping powerhouse maturing into champions during the 1911 National Tournament in Chippewa Falls, WI. Aurora skiers captured five of the top ten places. Francis captured the individual national title.

The narrative account on Francis Kempe in the Red Wing Ski Jumping Tabloid, February 2007 is as follows:

Francis Kempe might not even have been the greatest ski jumper of Red Wing’s famed “All Americans” in 1911, but he was the only one to win a national championship. Kempe, a German/American born in Red Wing, defeated the top Norwegian American jumpers.