

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – FELCH TOWNSHIP – FELCH MOUNTAIN RANGE DEVELOPMENT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

## FELCH MOUNTAIN RANGE DEVELOPMENT

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County,  
Michigan, Volume XI, Number 7  
[Saturday, January 17, 1880], page 3,  
column 3

THE explorations in what is known as the **Felch mountain range** result so favorably that **railroad** talk is again becoming general. The prospects now are that the region will be opened by two lines of rail, one a branch of the **C. & N.W. company's** road, extending northward through the **Sturgeon river valley**, and another, probably a **narrow gauge road**, westward from the **mouth of the Escanaba**. The latter road will have in view not only the transportation of ore, but the development of a good **farming country** and a **lumber** interest as well. Everything now promises a busy year or years in our vicinity, increase in population, and development of wealth.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County,  
Michigan, Volume XI, Number 9  
[Saturday, January 31, 1880], page 2,  
columns 3-4

### [Menominee Range.]

–A recent **analysis of ore** from 32, 42, 29, gave 68 per cent. metal, .022 per cent. phosphorus and 3.2 per cent. silica. The location is in the **Felch mountain range**.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County,  
Michigan, Volume XI, Number 21  
[Saturday, April 24, 1880], page 8,  
column 2

### Range Items.

**PAUL KELLY** and **L.D. McKenna** have “struck it” on the west end of the so-called **Felch mountain range**. We understand that Paul has been offered \$10,000 already for his interest.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County,  
Michigan, Volume XI, Number 26  
[Saturday, May 29, 1880], page 8,  
columns 1-2

### Range Items.

–**J.P. Dodge**, who just returned from a ten days' sojourn at and near **Felch mountain**. From him we learn that Mr. **Curry** has a force of about twenty-five men employed on **32, 42, 28**, and that one of his shafts, at least, is seven feet in a blue ore resembling that of the **Vulcan**. A **Marquette** party, under direction of **Capt. McKenzie**, has a good prospect on **8, 41, 28**, a red hematite, with only four to six feet of stripping. **Capt. Pease**, for parties in **Milwaukee**, will thoroughly develop another portion of the same section, **8, 41, 28**, and possibly other adjacent lands. **Wright Bros.** have abandoned their exploration on **31, 42, 28**, but their camp and supplies have not been moved, and work may be resumed. The roads are almost impassable, seven or eight hundred being all that a good team can handle over them.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County,  
Michigan, Volume XI, Number 27  
[Saturday, June 5, 1880], page 8,  
column 2

### Range Items.

–If half that is told of discoveries north and northwest of **Quinnesec** is true, a line of rails will soon be demanded reaching

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thence to the **Republic location**. Rumor says that a large body of ore, similar to that of the **Republic mine**, has been discovered about midway between the two places **[Felch Mountain Range]**.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 36 [Saturday, August 7, 1880], page 8, column 2

## Range Items.

–“On to **Felch mountain** [*sic* – *Mountain*]!” is the cry of the explorer.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XT, Number 37 [Saturday, August 14, 1880], page 8, column 2

## Range Items.

–It is now generally believed that the **Felch mountain railway** will be built at once. An association of explorers and miners, of which **Mr. Maitland**, of **Negaunee**, is president, has a mine there, without doubt, and other parties have good indications. We are assured that the road will be built as soon as there is any ore to come out.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 41 [Saturday, September 11, 1880], page 8, column 2

## Range Items.

–The money has been raised to open a **road from Norway to Felch mountain** [*sic* – *Mountain*] and work on it begun.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 2 [Saturday, December 11, 1880], page 1, column 3

**THE C. & N.W. company are now running another line to reach the Felch Mountain region. The survey leaves the branch at Hermansville.**

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 5 [Saturday, January 1, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–Engineering parties are still **working up the Hermansville and Felch Mountain routes**. It is safe to say that is the one that will be chosen. –Men. Herald. On the contrary, it is as safe as any prediction can be that it is not the route "that will be chosen" by the **C. & N.W. Railway company**.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 20 [Saturday, April 16, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–**Mr. Palmer**, with a **surveying party**, went out [*on*] the branch, on Monday, to **run lines west and north of Florence for the extension of the railroad**. Authorities differ as to what the company intends, but to an outsider it appears very plain that the **C. & N.W.** cannot afford to delay the **extension of its lines to Felch mountain, Crystal falls and the country west of the Paint and north of the Brule**.

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*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 22 [Saturday, April 30, 1881], page 1, column 4

MR. **POWERS**, with an engineer party, left here on Wednesday to run the lines for the **mine sidings** at the **Metropolitan** and **Northwestern locations**, and we are informed that work on the **Felch Mountain branch** will be commenced at once and pushed as rapidly as possible. It is intended to complete the branch in time to allow of [sic - for] the shipment of some 50,000 tons from the two mines mentioned during the present season.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 23 [Saturday, May 7, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–The **canal company** is laying out a town at **Felch Mountain**. Mr. **Buell** has bought the **Commercial hotel** and Mr. **Polderman** will succeed **Felch** in charge thereof. –Range, 28th.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 25 [Saturday, May 21, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–The **extensions of the Northwestern railway to the Felch mountain, Paint river and Iron river districts** are progressing with all possible speed. It is not probable that that company can hold its monopoly of the ore-carrying on the range, but the company that comes in to compete with it will find the **Northwestern** every

where [sic – everywhere] there is a mine and pretty well fixed to stand competition.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 27 [Saturday, June 11, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–Work upon the **railway extensions**, towards **Felch mountain** [sic] and **Crystal Falls**, is pushed with all possible vigor, but it is almost impossible to keep men in the woods at laborers [sic - laborers'] wages, on account of the flies and musquitos [sic - mosquitos].

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 29 [Saturday, June 25, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–"A **real, live mail-agent**" now **accompanies the branch train**. The **Metropolitan is laying out a town near its mine and will have a newspaper**. –Chronicle, 18th.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 31 [Saturday, July 9, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–The company organized to work the "**Colwell find**," on the **Felch range**, is called the **Hecla**, and is officered as follows: **E. Breitung**, president; **B.D. Jones**, secretary; **Wm. Sturges**, treasurer.

–Three town sites have been laid out in the Felch mountain [sic] neighborhood and

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named, respectively, **Felch Mountain**, **Metropolitan** and **Theodore**. Felch Mountain is near the **Warner location**, occupying the s1/2 se1/4 29, 42, 28; Metropolitan adjoins the **Metropolitan mine** property, on 32, 42, 28, and is the property of that company; and Theodore is the property of the **canal company** and adjoins the **Northwestern mine** on 29, 42, 28. Two of them, we can not [sic] say which, will doubtless be fizzles.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 32 [Saturday, July 16, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–The prospect is now that the **railroad will not be completed to Felch mountain [sic – Mountain] before the close of the season** for shipments. –Range, 7th.

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 44 [Saturday, October 8, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

## Range Items.

–A **postoffice [sic – post office] has been established at Felch mountain [sic – Mountain]**. Name "**Metropolitan**" and **L.A. Friedrichs** is postmaster.

–The rains have made the roads to and through the **Felch mountain district** almost impassable, nevertheless [sic], **O'Callaghan** has succeeded in transporting a **saw-mill** thither and will soon have it at work. A court has been established **L.D. Fleming**, magistrate, and **John Madden**, constable, and a **school district is to be organized**. All which we learn from the Range.