

THE HOUSE ATOP THE HILL – AN HISTORIC HOME THAT BECAME THE CHIPPEWA CLUB

[Beatrice M. Blomquist and William John Cummings]

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The imposing edifice standing at the north end of Carpenter Avenue in 25 Location has been the site of many events and decisions which have influenced the fate of Dickinson County for almost 87 years. Originally built for the Chapin Mining Company's general manager, the house became the residence of the general manager of the Oliver Iron Mining Company's properties on the Menominee and Gogebic Ranges shortly after its erection. For the past forty years the structure has served as a private club, originally as place for businessmen to conduct their discussions in a quiet, private atmosphere without interruptions.

The cover's top photograph shows the residence within the first decade of its construction, an outstanding example of Colonial Revival architecture. The lower photograph shows the building as it appeared shortly after the formation of the Chippewa Club. Only the families of James MacNaughton and Otto Conrad Davidson have resided in this historic home, a private residence until 1945, when the house was purchased from Mrs. Davidson by some of the founders of the Chippewa Club.

This booklet contains extensive information about the site, the mining companies which owned the property, the building itself, the families who resided there, an overview of the nation's iron and steel industry in relation to area iron mining at the time, and the formation and evolution of the Chippewa Club and its impact on the area's economy.

In addition to a photograph section, a special feature entitled "Willie Dickinson Is Missing" has been included. Mrs. O.C. [Charlotte Sargent Dickinson] Davidson was a sister to William W. "Willie"

Dickinson, the six-year-old victim of the most celebrated kidnapping ever to occur on the Menominee Iron Range. This 14-page feature contains contemporary area newspaper accounts from the time of Willie's disappearance in November, 1881, through 1900, when his mother, having spent a fortune and traveling to Canada and every state in the union, still sought the whereabouts of her long-lost son.

Containing 44 pages, this booklet is the longest historic tour produced to date by the Menominee Range Historical Foundation and the Dickinson County Library in conjunction with the Dickinson County Festival of the Arts. The scope of each tour and the amount of research has grown each year, as has the length of the booklets.

For the past six years the Mid-Peninsula Library Cooperative has absorbed the cost of printing these booklets so they could be distributed free of charge. However, as with everything else, production costs have increased and the Cooperative revenues are meager. This year persons interested in obtaining a booklet are asked to contribute one dollar to help defray these costs and allow us to continue exploring and recording various aspects of our heritage for all to enjoy and remember.

This is the first historic tour to permit entrance to a privately-owned building. On Saturday, July 20, from 1 to 3 p.m. the Chippewa Club will open its doors to the public to view this historic building and the renovation being completed in conjunction with the fortieth anniversary of the club.

Thanks are due to the following personnel from the Mid-Peninsula Library Cooperative without whose support this booklet would not be possible: Gary Silver, director; Frank Marsden, printer; Marge Erkkila, secretary-bookkeeper; and Jackie Tripp, inter-library loan clerk. Thanks also go to Michael Moraska, manager of the

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Chippewa Club, for his assistance in providing information and photographs; to the Chippewa Club Board of Governors, for opening the club to the public for this tour; to Eugene Derwinski, for copying original photographs; and to Standard Printing, for printing the photograph section and cover and providing a reverse from the blueprint plat of the house and grounds as printed on the reverse of this page.

A special note of thanks and commendation are due Beatrice Blomquist for her work in ferreting out the story surrounding the formation and evolution of the Chippewa Club. Her dedication in tracking down pertinent details on short notice has enhanced this aspect of our area's history which may have never been recorded.

William J. Cummings, Manager
Menominee Range Historical Foundation
July 14, 1985

THE SITE AND ITS BACKGROUND

Perched atop a hill overlooking Iron Mountain's famed Chapin Mine and the business district, the structure housing today's Chippewa Club was not the first to occupy this commanding site. This building was erected by the Chapin Mining Company as a residence for General Manager James MacNaughton in 1898-1899. However, the house of the general manager of another important Iron Mountain iron mine, the Ludington Mine, was built there in the early 1880's.

Shortly after its formation in August, 1879, with a capital stock of \$100,000, the Lumbermen's Mining Company leased the property which adjoined the newly-opened Chapin Mine on its western border from the Portage Lake & Lake Superior Ship Canal Company for a royalty fee of 40 cents per

ton. Officers included Wisconsin's Governor Harrison Ludington, of Milwaukee, president; S.M. Stephenson, a Menominee lumberman, vice-president; Isaac Stephenson, a Marinette lumberman, treasurer; and Joseph Fleshiem, another Menominee lumberman, secretary. The following year, George E. Stockbridge discovered ore on the south half of Section 25, long referred to as 25 Location by Iron Mountain natives. This deposit was developed as the Ludington Mine, named for the company's president. Incidentally, streets bearing the names of these gentlemen appear on the original plat of Iron Mountain: Ludington Street, Stephenson Avenue, Fleshiem Street and Stockbridge Avenue.



These mining officials from Iron Mountain's Ludington Mine posed for H.S. Emory, an Appleton, Wisconsin, photographer, between 1883 and 1890. They are identified as follows: (back row) William B. Catlin, surface boss; Robert Bankes, cashier and later superintendent; A.D. Moore, superintendent; Harry McDermott, master mechanic; Francis A. Brown, chief chemist; Sam Spear, bookkeeper; (front row) Captain Grey; Captain Sam Langdon; Captain Henry Shields; Morris Danielson, blacksmith; Tom Hancock, carpenter. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Stockbridge was named superintendent of this new mine, but unfortunately the original deposit played out during the second year of mining. Master Mechanic

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Harry McDermott, supervising extensive diamond drilling on the property, succeeded in locating the continuation of the famed Chapin deposit on the northeast corner which yielded 52,519 tons in 1882, the first year of operation at the new site.

In mid-November of the following year, Stockbridge was so maltreated during the Chapin and Ludington miners' strike that he left town fearing for his life after being kicked, beaten and then further humiliated when someone in the unruly crowd spit in his face. Shortly thereafter he resigned his position as superintendent to become the company's general manager. His successor was A.D. Moore, the head clerk who had been an employee since the mine began producing. Sometime prior to 1890 Robert Bankes had replaced Stockbridge as general manager. Early Iron Mountain newspapers document the fact that Bankes lived in the house originally standing on the site occupied by the Chippewa Club.

The Emmett Mining Company also aspired to intercept the Chapin and the Ludington deposits when a lease was obtained on 80 acres in Section 30 owned by the Hamilton & Merryman Company in 1883. The ore supply at the Emmett Mining Company's Keel Ridge Mine, located just east of Iron Mountain, appeared to be exhausted early that same year, and the ground around the mine had been cracking and settling. Preparations for abandonment of the Keel Ridge property were almost completed when there was a loud rumble from the shaft shortly after one o'clock on April 10 and the ground under thirteen men gave way. Four scrambled to safety and one of the remaining miners who was buried alive was rescued in one of the worst mining disasters ever to occur on the Menominee Iron Range.

Superintendent John Tyler Jones supervised the extensive diamond drilling on the newly-leased property in Iron

Mountain. The deposit which was to be developed as the Hamilton Mine was discovered just 40 feet from the Ludington property line. At this time the Emmett Mining Company also began platting an addition to the village of Iron Mountain on this tract and moved 29 buildings from the abandoned Keel Ridge location to this site.



This photograph documents early mining construction techniques before steel replaced timber. A shaft house was under construction in late October, and boilers and an engine from the Keel Ridge Mine were used to facilitate the work, then down 110 feet. The 215-foot level had been reached by late January, 1884, and the completed shaft house was acclaimed as the finest on the range. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

Both the Ludington and the Hamilton became important ore producers in Iron Mountain. However, while Iron Mountain pioneers were ringing in the new year on the evening of December 31, 1891, disaster struck when both mines flooded. At the time a second shaft was being sunk at the Hamilton Mine. In late October a water-filled cavity was struck while preparing the last hole in a series prior to blasting, and at least a portion of the water which rose to within 90 feet of the collar of the Hamilton No. 2 shaft came from the Ludington A shaft sump. On New Year's Eve the

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Ludington's hanging wall moved and water began entering that mine at the 11th level of A shaft at a rate of 6,000 gallons per minute. The Ludington was soon filled to the 9th level, and the Hamilton's No. 1 shaft, connected to the Ludington's A shaft by drifts, was also filling.

The Ludington immediately reduced its labor force from 500 to 150 men, while the Hamilton, with both shafts flooded, laid off all its miners and most of the surface men. The Ludington's bailing operations had succeeded in lowering the water level by only 10 feet a month after the flooding. Since the management was losing tremendous sums daily, the mine was abandoned February 6, 1892. Superintendent Bankes tendered his resignation, and the remaining 150 employees were discharged. Once bailing operations ceased, the water in the Ludington rose at the rate of a foot an hour, reaching the 6th level by February 11.



This photograph shows the 2,650-gallon bailer used to dewater No. 2 Shaft of the Hamilton Mine

in June, 1892. Bailing began **June 19**. By **June 14**, the bailers had raised 87,017,954 gallons of water, lowering the water level by 896 feet in the Ludington and 1,325 feet in the Hamilton. The flow was then normal, and in six weeks the water was out of both mines. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

The corporate name assumed by the Emmett Mining Company by 1886 was the Hamilton Ore Company, of Sharon, Pennsylvania, with P.L. Kimberly, an iron manufacturer, the principal stockholder. Shortly after the flooding, negotiations were unsuccessfully initiated to have the two companies handle the dewatering jointly. Eventually Kimberly bought controlling interest in the Ludington Mine. Negotiations to begin a joint dewatering project were finally completed in the spring of 1893, after the two Hamilton shafts were connected to facilitate the bailing operations, and by the end of August the water was out of both mines.

When the successful dewatering of the Hamilton and Ludington shafts was accomplished in the summer of 1893, the full impact of the infamous financial panic was just beginning to spread across the nation. With the depressed iron market, these mines remained closed, and General Manager John Tyler Jones allowed them to again fill with water.

The Chapin Mine closed August 18, and a foreclosure on the mortgage of the Chapin Mining Company's property was announced in early September, 1894. Cleveland's M.A. Hanna & Company, owned by Marcus Alonzo Hanna and dealing in coal and iron, purchased the Chapin Mine at the October 29 sale, and James MacNaughton was named general manager.

Following its sale, the Chapin continued to mine and ship ore, and began increasing its work force in the spring of 1895. In early

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June, Iron Mountain's newspaper, *The Range-Tribune*, exclaimed:

It seems like old times now with the Chicago & Northwestern hauling between six and seven hundred cars to Escanaba daily from this range, and the cry being heard all along the line for more cars...Thirty-two trains are operated, sixteen each way, and the daily movement of ore is over 10,000 tons.

Like the rest of the nation, Iron Mountain and the Menominee Iron Range were beginning to recover from the Panic of 1893. Toward the end of November, the local newspapers noted a verbal agreement had been made by which the Hamilton and Ludington mines would both come under the Chapin management. The merger became official after a meeting in Cleveland on January 6, 1896, and plans were made to rapidly dewater the two new properties.

With the dewatering accomplished by early June, the Chapin Mining Company management installed a new pumping plant to keep the mines operable. By the fall of 1897, the Chapin Mine's D shaft had been connected with the Hamilton No. 2 shaft and by the following May the Ludington and Chapin mines were also connected. As these improvements were being made, all of the old buildings at both the Hamilton and the Ludington properties were torn down with the exception of the general manager's house at the Ludington Mine.

THE CHAPIN MINING COMPANY'S NEW GENERAL MANAGER'S RESIDENCE

The first mention of the Chapin Mining Company's new residence for General Manager James MacNaughton appeared in Iron Mountain's first daily newspaper, *The Daily Tribune*, on Friday, August 12, 1898 [Volume 3, Number 648], as follows:

A NEW RESIDENCE

Will Be Built by Superintendent MacNaughton, of the Chapin.

Superintendent MacNaughton, of the Chapin mine, will shortly begin the erection of a new residence on Ludington Hill on the site now occupied by the house formerly used by Superintendent Banks [sic – Bankes], of the old Ludington mine. Plans are now being drawn for the new house and the intention is to have it completed this Fall [sic – fall]. The old house has been sold to Thomas Penglase, an employe [sic – employee] of the mine, who will move it on East A street at once, and fix it up as a modern house.



Robert Bankes, general manager of the Ludington Mining Company, originally lived in this house, located at the north end of Carpenter Avenue in the Ludington Location. This photograph, probably taken by Iron Mountain photographer George S. Van Stone, was dated 1894 by Emma S. Keen (later Mrs. Solomon S. Scott). On the reverse, Emma identified her fellow teachers, seated on the porch of the house where they roomed which then belonged to Thomas Flaherty, as follows: Minnie Daub,

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Emma Keen, Bird Scolland, Minnie McDonald and Anna Campbell Irish. [Keen Scott]



Another view of the Flaherty house, also probably taken by George S. Van Stone, Iron Mountain photographer in about 1894, shows a group of ladies, probably the same teachers, seated in a hammock and under a shade tree. When James MacNaughton became superintendent of the Chapin Mining Company in 1898, the house was sold to Thomas Penglase and moved to its present location at 401 East A Street. MacNaughton's new residence, today the Chippewa Club, was constructed for him on the site and later occupied by the Otto C. Davidson family. [Keen Scott]

The *Iron Mountain Press* amplified the information contained in the above account on the front page of its weekly edition dated Thursday, August 18, 1898 [Volume 3, Number 13], as follows:

Will Build a Fine Residence.

D. Fred Charlton, the Marquette architect[,] is now preparing the plans for a handsome and roomy residence which General Manager MacNaughton intends erecting on North Carpenter avenue, on the site of the old Banks [sic – Bankes] residence. The Banks [sic – Bankes] residence has been sold to Thomas

Penglase, who is now having it moved to two lots owned by him on West [sic – East] A street. Mr. MacNaughton's new home will be of a colonial style of architecture and will contain about twelve rooms. It is the expectation to beautify the fine grounds in every way possible and the handsome Ludington park will be included in the enclosure. The large house now occupied by Mr. MacNaughton will be torn down next spring.

Thomas Penglase did move General Manger Robert Bankes' former residence to his property at 401 East A Street, where the house still stands. Thomas was a miner at the Chapin Mine and later served as a mechanic. He and his wife, Sophia, and their two daughters, Ella M. and Jennie P. Penglase, lived in the house, and in later years the two daughters, who were teachers in Iron Mountain, opened the Iron Mountain Business College in their home.

According to the *Iron Mountain Press* the foundation walls, constructed of red sandstone from the North Side quarry, were finished by early October, and the residence was enclosed by the middle of November. By then the firm of Hartmann & Schaffner had secured the contract for the plumbing. More than six months were to pass, however, before the MacNaughtons were able to take possession of their new home.

Once the MacNaughtons had moved, their former residence near the corner of North Stephenson Avenue and Fourth Street in the Chapin Location was not torn down, as indicated in the first *Iron Mountain Press* article above. A brief note in the Thursday, September 7, 1899 [Volume 4, Number 16] issue of that same newspaper states:

W.H. Sweet has purchased the residence lately occupied by General Manager MacNaughton from the Chapin

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Mining company. He will make two residences out of it, moving them on to lots on West B and West F streets.

Another note appeared in the Thursday, October 5, 1899 [Volume 4, Number 20] edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, as follows, regarding this removal:

W.H. Sweet has bought the vacant lot on the corner of West F and Prospect streets from Frank Gill and is now moving a portion of the old Chapin residence thereon.

Thus, both before and after the new general manager's residence was built at the Ludington location, the former homes of two general managers were relocated within the City of Iron Mountain.

THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER'S NEW HOUSE

A comparison of the top cover photograph, taken shortly after the new general manager's house was erected, with the sketch of a typical Colonial Revival house below, taken from *The Old-House Journal Compendium*, shows Marquette architect D. Fred Charlton's design to be a creditable example to go back to America's architectural beginnings by incorporating details from the Colonial Georgian and Federal styles onto the larger houses of the late Victorian era. The result is heavier and more boxy than the Early American styles.

All of the following characteristics of the Colonial Revival style are found in the general manager's residence prior to modifications: symmetrical layout of facades, hipped or gabled roof, dormers and classical details as columned porches, Palladian-style windows and dentilled cornices. Other details not found on the general manager's house but typical of this style are roof balustrades and doorways with fanlights and slender sidelights. There

is a balustrade atop the porch roof, however, in this early photograph.

Michael Moraska, manager of the Chippewa Club, noted the house originally contained the following rooms: entrance, parlor, sitting room, diningroom and kitchen on the first floor; five bedrooms on the second floor; and three or four rooms used as servants' quarters. A formal staircase lit by a stained-glass window leads from the entrance to the second floor, while a back stairway was used by the servants to get to all three floors. All four fireplaces remain in the house, boasting finely-carved mantels and ceramic tiles surrounding the hearth openings. Two of the fireplaces were in second-floor bedrooms and the remaining fireplaces were in the parlor and sitting room. The house retains its finely-fitted oak woodwork and paneling, as well as ornate brass hardware on the doors. In the entrance hall the ceiling is decorated with wood moldings forming a geometrical pattern. The two brass wall scones flanking one of the fireplaces on the second floor were in the house when it was acquired by the Chippewa Club.

According to one of the Davidson children, the stained-glass window lighting the landing of the main staircase was designed by an artist in Milwaukee. The window has amber-toned panes with a floral garland-like border and central medallion motif accented by red glass jewels. Mrs. Davidson was so fond of this window, according to one of her sons, that she had twelve or thirteen lampshades made to match. Unfortunately these lampshades were discarded in later years when stained-glass was no longer fashionable. In all likelihood the stained-glass window was installed when the house was constructed, and the MacNaughtons made the selection. Mrs. Davidson probably commissioned the lampshades after the family moved into the house.

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The photographs of interior views of the house and the gardens which appear in the photograph section of this booklet were taken September 23, 1943, shortly before Otto C. Davidson's death. They effectively illustrate the many fine appointments and architectural details inside the residence.

Outside extensive gardens were maintained, mainly to the south of the house. In addition, there were numerous outbuildings, including a two-lane bowling alley, stable and carriage house which still stands. One of the outbuildings was moved from the grounds and is now part of the Beagle Club. During the Davidsons' tenancy shuffleboard courts and one of the first, if not the first, in-ground swimming pool in Iron Mountain were installed on the grounds.

JAMES A. AND MARY EUPHEMIA (MORRISON) MacNAUGHTON

James A. MacNaughton's life in the mining industry certainly was influenced by that of his father, Archibald MacNaughton, who was born in Glenyon, Perthshire, Scotland, September 30, 1829. The MacNaughtons were farmers and had lived in Perthshire for generations. Archibald's wife, Catherine MacIntyre, was born in Lower Fernock, Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1831, and the couple was married at her birthplace in 1852.

Two years later the MacNaughtons crossed the Atlantic Ocean, settling in Ontario, Canada, for ten years. Five of those years were spent at the Bruce Mine on the north shore of Georgian Bay, where James A. MacNaughton was born March 9, 1864. Three months later the family moved to Hancock, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where Archibald worked with the Quincy Mining Company.

In 1867 Archibald was employed by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, and the family moved to Lake Linden. He was appointed superintendent of the "incline," where the Hecla & Torch Lake Railroad then ended. The loaded rock or ore cars were let down the steep grade of the inclined railroad, nearly a mile in length, by means of a wire cable operated by a steam engine at the head of the incline, where the MacNaughton's house was located. The stamping mills were located at the foot of the hill. Thus, as a boy, James observed mining operations virtually in his front yard.

Archibald spent almost thirty of his thirty-two years in the Copper County in the employ of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, where his son James rose from waterboy at the coal docks in Lake Linden to president. In 1888, the MacNaughtons moved to Calumet, where they resided until their deaths in 1896.

Archibald MacNaughton died Sunday, June 14, 1896, at Calumet. Catherine (MacIntyre) MacNaughton died Tuesday, December 15, 1896, of pneumonia, in Thomasville, Georgia, where she was spending the winter. Both were buried in the Houghton cemetery. The couple had seven children, three sons and four daughters. At the time of Mrs. MacNaughton's death, the children's residences were as follows: John, Catherine [married Dr. Abel Albert Davis in Calumet, Michigan, June 28, 1898], and Mrs. J.P. North, all of Calumet; James A. and Dr. Peter Duncan [married Ethel Mayo Rossiter, daughter of Major and Mrs. Walter King Rossiter, in Brooklyn, New York, November 5, 1902], both of Iron Mountain; Mrs. A.B. Penniman, of Adams, Massachusetts; and Jessie [married Dr. Royal T. Farrand in Calumet, Michigan, September 31, 1896], of Detroit, Michigan.

James MacNaughton attended public schools in Lake Linden, and, after he was

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eleven, worked as a waterboy at the Calumet & Hecla coal docks during his summer vacations, receiving one dollar per day. He left school at sixteen to become a switch tender on the railroad operated by the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, and a year later began operating a stationary engine on the gravity road or the “incline” at the company’s stamping mills in Lake Linden, receiving two dollars per day. James was sent to Oberlin College, at Oberlin, Ohio, at the age of nineteen, where he studied for a year. In the fall of 1884 he entered the University of Michigan, where he studied engineering until June, 1886, when he returned to the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, accepting a position in the mining engineer’s office, doing surveying and drafting.

In February, 1889, the Schlesinger Syndicate, comprised of German capitalists headed by Ferdinand Schlesinger and represented by Cleveland and Milwaukee iron magnates, acquired controlling interest in the Chapin Mining Company. This syndicate purchased 74,000 of the company’s 80,000 shares for an estimated \$2,000,000, making this the largest stock transfer to have occurred for years in the iron industry. That same month James MacNaughton accepted the position of mining engineer at the Chapin Mine under Superintendent C.H. Cady.

Another Copper Country native who became highly successful in the mining industry must have been acquainted with James MacNaughton early in their respective careers, and his influence may have had something to do with MacNaughton’s rapid promotion within the Chapin Mining Company. Thomas F. Cole was born at the Cliff Mine in Keweenaw County, Michigan, July 19, 1862, making him not quite two years older than MacNaughton. In June, 1868, Cole’s father was killed in a mining accident, and two

years later, at the age of eight, Cole was working in the Phoenix and Cliff mines to help support his widowed mother and siblings. Early in 1877 he obtained a position on the Hecla & Torch Lake Railroad, where he worked for the next eight years. MacNaughton became a switch tender on this railroad in 1880. Cole educated himself during his spare time and was especially adept at figures. Due to his railroad experience and hard-won education, Cole was promoted to a berth in the general office of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company in about 1885. In the fall of the following year he accepted a position as cashier and bookkeeper for the Chapin Mining Company in Iron Mountain, and while employed there familiarized himself with the mining techniques being adopted and made some practical suggestions which attracted the attention of Ferdinand Schlesinger. Cole was appointed superintendent of Schlesinger’s Queen Mine group at Negaunee, Michigan, in November, 1889, about eight months after MacNaughton began working as a mining engineer for the Chapin Mining Company, also under the control of the Schlesinger Syndicate. Schlesinger was so pleased with Cole’s successful operation of the Queen Mine group that Cole was promoted to general manager of the Schlesinger mines on the Marquette, Menominee, Gogebic and Mesabi ranges in the early 1890’s.

McNaughton’s ability and progressive ideas evidently impressed the Chapin management, for he was promoted to the position of assistant superintendent in May, 1890. Evidently some type of management changes brought about the resignation of Superintendent Cady and Assistant Superintendent MacNaughton in the late spring of 1891. These resignations were submitted to General Manager Cole. Cady was succeeded by Superintendent Kent,

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who was shortly thereafter advanced to the position of general superintendent of the Schlesinger Syndicate and left Iron Mountain. MacNaughton was immediately reinstated as assistant superintendent, and had complete charge of the Chapin Mine. He was promoted to general superintendent of the Chapin Mine in March, 1892. During this time the Chapin Mining Company was busy renovating the mine and preparing to open D Shaft, located on the northwest corner of today's intersection of North Stephenson Avenue and Kent Street. This is also the site where the famed Cornish pumping engine was installed originally, going into regular operation in early spring of 1893.

In Iron Mountain's first city directory, issued in August, 1892, James MacNaughton is listed as superintendent of the Chapin Mining Company, residing at the same place on the corner of Fourth Street in the mine superintendent's house. Still a bachelor when the data for the directory was gathered, MacNaughton boarded at 401 Chapin Street, the residence of F.E. Woodbury, a mining engineer with the Chapin Mining Company.

But MacNaughton was probably no longer a bachelor by the time the city directory reached its subscribers, for he and Mary Euphemia Morrison were married at Calumet, Michigan, August 27, 1892. Mary was the daughter of John S. Morrison, who was born in Inverness Shire, Scotland, in 1842. He emigrated to America in 1855, residing in Ontario until 1863, where he learned the blacksmithing trade. Morrison then came to Hancock as foreman of the blacksmithing department of the Quincy Mine, continuing there until 1869, when he accepted a similar position at the Calumet Mine. Thirteen months later he was assigned to the same position at the Hecla Mine.

The MacNaughtons became the parents of a daughter, Martha Lois, born in Iron Mountain on June 16, 1893. [Another daughter, Mary, was born after the MacNaughtons left Iron Mountain.]

It was James MacNaughton who had to weather the difficult months following the Panic of 1893 when the Chapin Mine was not operating and the hundreds of miners who had been in his employ were out of work. However, when the purchase of the Chapin Mining Company by M.A. Hanna & Company became official in January, 1895, MacNaughton was retained as general manager. As noted earlier, the Hamilton and Ludington properties were acquired shortly thereafter, and the three mines were linked together underground.

The MacNaughton family was hardly settled in the new general manager's house in 25 Location when the Chapin Mining Company was sold to the newly-formed National Steel Company on July 28, 1899. The company, with its headquarters in Chicago, retained MacNaughton as general manager.

At about this same time an incident involving a discharged miner occurred and is colorfully recorded in Iron Mountain's centennial book *Born From Iron* on page 123 under the title "Tamborini's Hill." The area where the North Side water reservoir is located was known as Tamborini's Hill by the older residents of Iron Mountain because Joseph Tamborini built a home on this site in 1899. Although the site reminded him of his native Sesto Calende, Italy, in the foothills of the Alps, Tamborini was more concerned about the location of his new home for personal satisfaction because if his discharge from the Chapin Mine. It seems Tamborini was fired because his political views didn't coincide with those of the mining company. The incident occurred in the dead of winter, and since he and his wife and daughter were

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living in a company house in the vicinity of North Kimberly Avenue near the Hamilton Mine, they were forced to love immediately. Tamborini had to find lodging for his family and was forced to sell his cows, pigs and chickens. The site of his new home was important to Joseph Tamborini, for whenever General Manager MacNaughton looked north from his residence, he would see the Tamborini residence above him. Tamborini's satisfaction came from the fact that the mining official would never be able to look down on him again, even if he was a poor immigrant.

MacNaughton was involved actively in politics on a local, state and national level. He served as a supervisor of Dickinson County since its formation in 1891, and held the position of chairman of the Board of Supervisors for one year. MacNaughton served as president of the Board of Public Works in Iron Mountain, and in 1895 he was appointed by Governor Rich as a member of the Board of Control of the Upper Peninsula Prison at Marquette, an office he held until 1899. While residing in Iron Mountain, MacNaughton was a delegate to the Republican convention held in St. Louis in 1896, and he was nominated as a presidential elector at the state Republican convention held in Detroit in April, 1900.

Following the purchase of the Chapin Mining Company, MacNaughton also became manager of the Winthrop Mine at Ishpeming, Michigan, also owned by the National Steel Company.

Drastic changes within the steel industry were occurring at the turn of the century, as companies merged with former competitors to acquire partial monopolies of the operations in their special fields of steel manufacture, thus enabling them to raise the prices for their finished products. In many mind the ideal merger evolved – a combination of these steel manufacturing

companies into a mammoth supercorporation. But one thing stood squarely in the way of such a dream – the Carnegie Steel Company, then the biggest, most efficient and fabulously successful company in the industry. While the newly-formed companies concentrated on making finished steel articles, the Carnegie company dominated the production of crude steel from which they fashioned their products.

In the summer of 1900, a ferocious struggle began within the steel industry which was to affect the iron ranges in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The various new combinations which made finished steel products realized they also needed to produce their own crude steel, even to the point of acquiring their own sources of iron ore, if they wanted to avoid being dependent on the Carnegie Steel Company for their raw material. As these companies prepared to manufacture crude steel, they began cancelling their contracts with the Carnegie company.

Feisty Andrew Carnegie, who tightly controlled his steel empire, considered this a declaration of war, and soon announced the Carnegie Steel Company would begin manufacturing finished steel products. This announcement placed the new steel combinations in deadly peril, for Carnegie could produce more steel more economically than anyone else in the world. He also had immense capital, and did not mind stopping dividends entirely to invest his company's earnings in new construction.

Arrangements were made for John Pierpont Moran, of New York, America's foremost leader of finance, to attend a dinner at New York's University Club in December, 1900, where Charles M. Schwab, Carnegie's chief assistant, was to speak about the future of the American steel industry. Schwab noted the growing

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demand for steel, adding that American could dominate the world's steel trade only if the industry could be fully integrated for complete efficiency. If a single corporation could carry the manufacture of steel through every stage from mining the ore to completing the finished product, operations would be so economical that such a company could cut prices, instead of raising them, and still make millions.

Intrigued, Morgan spoke with Schwab privately following the dinner, and another meeting was arranged shortly thereafter at Morgan's mansion, where Schwab was asked if he thought Carnegie would be willing to sell his company. Carnegie was then in his middle sixties, and had given some thought to retirement. At first dismayed when Schwab asked the question, Carnegie soon realized the moment to sell had arrived, and jotted some figures on a slip of paper for Morgan's approval. Morgan accepted, agreeing to pay Carnegie's asking price which totaled \$492,556,766.

Morgan now called the head of one big company after another into conference, working out terms for its acquisition. Among the properties he succeeded in acquiring was the Lake Superior Consolidated Iron Mines which controlled the largest deposits of ore on the Mesabi Range and was owned by John D. Rockefeller. Carnegie had lease these properties from Rockefeller, and had controlling interest in the Oliver Iron Mining Company which worked the mines.

Within three months of the University Club dinner, Morgan had organized the United States Steel Corporation which then controlled three-fifths of the country's steel business and was the first American corporation with a capitalization of over a billion dollars (\$1,402,846,817).

Thus, the Chapin Mining Company became a part of the United States Steel

Corporation when the National Steel Company was acquired. The Chapin Mine was worked by the new corporation's subsidiary, the Oliver Iron Mining Company, and MacNaughton was appointed general superintendent of its Menominee Iron Range mines. At this same time, Thomas F. Cole was named president of the Oliver Iron Mining Company and practical manager of all the mines of the United States Steel Corporation.

However, MacNaughton was soon offered the position of general superintendent of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, and his services were also sought by several other larger independent mining companies at this time. Deciding to accept the offer of the company with which he entered his mining career, the MacNaughtons left Iron Mountain on Friday morning, June 21, 1901, for Calumet, where they lived until their deaths. Mrs. MacNaughton died in March, 1922, and her husband died Thursday, May 26, 1949, eight years after his retirement as president of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company, a position he held since December, 1926.

OTTO CONRAD AND CHARLOTTE SARGENT (DICKINSON) DAVIDSON

James McNaughton's successor as general superintendent of the Oliver Iron Mining Company's Menominee Range iron mines was a personal friend, Otto Conrad Davidson, then general superintendent of the Commonwealth Iron Company and for the iron mines owned by Oglebay, Norton & Company, of Cleveland, on the Menominee Range and elsewhere.

Tonnes Davidson, Otto's father, was born and raised in Norway, Europe, where he received his basic education and

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learned the trade of ship carpentry. Emigrating to America as a young man, he worked at his trade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for several years and then moved north to Green Bay, where he continued his vocation until his retirement. Tonnes Davidson died in Green Bay at the age of 90 prior to 1911. His wife, Lavina Jacobson, was also a native of Norway, Europe, born in about 1826. They were the parents of six children: Jacob, who died at four; Dora, who died at 23; Emanuel, who died at 21; and David J., Mary and Otto Conrad, who was born in Green Bay June 22, 1857.

At sixteen, following an education in the public schools, Otto C. Davidson began working as a clerk in a Green Bay bank, retaining this position until 1882, when he became bookkeeper at the Briar Hill Mine in Norway, Michigan. After serving as bookkeeper for a year, Davidson was named mine superintendent, a position he held for one year, resigning to accept a job as teller in a Green Bay bank, where he remained until 1886.

Davidson then returned to the Menominee Iron Range, assuming the position of superintendent of the Florence Mining Company properties in Florence County, Wisconsin. A 29-year-old bachelor, Davidson certainly must have been considered among the most eligible men in the area. His social activities included the Florence Toboggan Club, which he served as president, and perhaps he met and fell in love with Charlotte Sargent Dickinson while riding the slope down the hill toward Fisher Lake. At any rate, the love affair blossomed, and marriage must have been contemplated when Charlotte's father, William Edmund Dickinson, superintendent of the Commonwealth Iron Company, moved his family to Bessemer, where he took charge of the Colby Mine in January, 1889. His

successor at the Commonwealth Iron Company was Otto C. Davidson, soon to be his son-in-law.

The following account appeared in Norway's *The Current* on Saturday, April 13, 1889 [Volume V, Number 11], regarding the Davidson-Dickinson wedding on April 10:

MARRIED.

DAVIDSON-DICKINSON. – At the residence of the bride's parents in this city, Wednesday. Mr. O.C. Davidson to Miss Charlotte S. Dickinson, Rev. M.M. Allen officiating.

Owing to sickness in the family, the pleasant event mentioned above was celebrated in a quiet manner, only the immediate relatives of the contracting parties being present. The bride, though a recent comer to Bessemer, had already formed a large and warm circle of friends. Mr. Davidson succeeded Capt. Dickinson as Superintendent of the Commonwealth mine, and will take his bride back to be mistress of the home in which many years of her girlhood were spent. The happy couple left Wednesday evening for Chicago and elsewhere on a brief wedding trip, and the pleasant and hearty wishes of the community including those of the Pick and Axe to with them. –Pick and Axe. CONGRATULATIONS.

Charlotte's father, William Edmund Dickinson, was born to William and Mary (Wright) Dickinson in New York City May 30, 1824, and was reared and educated in Litchfield, Connecticut, where he was graduated from law school in 1844. Upon graduation, Dickinson practiced law in Connecticut for two years, and then spent the following three years on a whaling expedition.

Dickinson first came to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1850, taking charge of

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the copper mining operations at the Bohemian Mine in Ontonagon County. He then moved to Houghton's famed copper mining district, where he remained until 1865. It is probable that Dickinson married while in the Upper Peninsula, and from that union a daughter, Mary C. Dickinson, was born. At the time of her father's death in 1899, she was the wife of George D. Swift, at one time from Ironwood and then treasurer of the Lake Superior Consolidated Mines at Duluth, Minnesota. In Otto C. Davidson's biographical sketch in Alvah L. Sawyer's *A History of the Northern Peninsula of Michigan and Its People* (1911), she was listed as Mrs. Mary C. Hart, a resident of Stamford, Connecticut.

IN 1865 Dickinson traveled to Rocky Bar, near Boise, Idaho, spending two years developing gold and silver claims for Joseph Hanna and others. Shortly after returning to New York City in 1867, Dickinson married Elizabeth G. Sargent at the home of her parents, the Rev. John and Charlotte (White) Sargent, in Boston, Massachusetts, on September 7. Her father was a life-long resident of Boston, and her mother was descended from one of the early settlers of Salem, Massachusetts. Their eldest daughter, Charlotte Sargent Dickinson, was born in Stamford, Connecticut, February 13, 1869.

Returning to the Upper Peninsula in 1870, Dickinson served as superintendent of Samuel J. Tilden's New York Mine at Ishpeming. Some, of not all of the remaining Dickinson children were born there, and were: Christine K., who was born in Ishpeming, married George W. Pontbirand in Florence, Wisconsin, September 1, 1896, and then married J.F. Reynolds in Florence, Wisconsin, August 20, 1900; Edmund S., who was living in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, when his sister Charlotte Davidson died in 1957; Harry; Frank S., who was living in Granite City,

Illinois, when his sister died in 1957; Lucetta W., who married Guy McCall Burton and was living in St. Petersburg, Florida, when her sister died in that city in 1957; and William W. (Willie).

In 1881 the Dickinson family moved from Ishpeming to Commonwealth, Marinette County, Wisconsin, where Captain Dickinson took charge of the Tuttle brothers' Commonwealth Mine. Commonwealth had been laid out in March, 1880, and was still a frontier town. On November 1, 1881, a tragedy which haunted the Dickinson family for the remainder of their lives occurred when Willie, aged six [*sic – five*], disappeared en route home from school. He was never found, and his parents were certain he had been kidnapped, spending a fortune tracing clues across the continent for more than twenty years. *An account through contemporary newspaper articles is included in an appendix to this booklet.*

Dickinson took charge of Charles Colby's Colby Mine in Bessemer, on the Gogebic Iron Range, in January, 1889. He left Bessemer in 1893, traveling to Daiquiri, Cuba, to develop the Spanish American Mine at Santiago. Dickinson remained there until 1896, when he returned to the United States due to Cuba's unstable government, as the island prepared to shed its link with Spanish colonial rule.

Returning to the Gogebic Iron Range, Dickinson engaged in mining for a time, but then gave up mining altogether. He returned to Florence, Wisconsin, where he engaged in law practice and also served as an agent for the Aetna Powder Company. Dickinson was elected Florence County's district attorney.

According to his death record at the Florence County Court House, Dickinson died June 15, 1899, of shock from a strangulated hernia. He was buried in the Commonwealth Cemetery. His obituary in

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the June 22, 1899, edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* stated “the captain never recovered from the shock of this cruel blow [Willie’s disappearance] and was not the same man after his child disappeared.”

Following their marriage, the Davidsons set up housekeeping in a house filled with memories for Charlotte, for she had spent a fair portion of her youth there as daughter of the superintendent of the Commonwealth Mining Company. However, her formal education was not obtained in Commonwealth, Wisconsin, but in Boston, Massachusetts, and at Ferry Hall in Lake Forest, Illinois.

While residing in Commonwealth, the Davidsons became the parents of four sons: Ward Follett, born October 21, 1890; Harold Osborn, born July 24, 1892; Norman Hart, born March 1, 1894; and Otto Conrad, Jr., born October 19, 1895. [Two of the Davidsons’ grandchildren were born in Iron Mountain. Ward Follett Davidson, Jr., was born September 19, 1918, to Ward Follett and Emily (Bostwice) Davidson. Harold Osborn Davidson, Jr., was born December 10, 1918, to Harold Osborn and Alma (Kloepp) Davidson.]

Among the greatest of Davidson’s successes as a mine superintendent was the acquisition of the Aragon Mine in Norway, Michigan, for the Commonwealth Iron Company. When Angus Smith finally signed the purchase agreement June 28, 1897, following a lengthy period of negotiations carried on by Davidson, the mine had been idle for six months, having produced 762,537 tons of ore prior to that time. However, the machinery was antiquated, the shafts were in poor condition, the mine had a serious water problem and the amount of ore remaining in the deposit was uncertain. Under Davidson’s careful supervision, this mine became one of the major producers on the Menominee Iron Range. By mid-July 300

men had been put to work at the Aragon, bringing Norway out of an economic slump. About 450 men were on the payroll by mid-October, as the mine was preparing to begin mining operations and a new shaft, known as the Harrison Shaft, was being sunk. Modern machinery was installed, and in the spring of 1901, less than four years later, the property was sold for \$2,500,000.

Davidson became a familiar face to the residents of the eastern Menominee Iron Range, not only serving as superintendent of the Aragon Mine, but also Traders Mine which was operated by the Antoine Ore Company. As with all local mining officials of the time, anything of significance that occurred in his life was of interest to the people of the surrounding communities, as evidenced by the following article which appeared on the front page of the *Iron Mountain Press* Thursday, August 17, 1899 [Volume 4, Number 13], almost two years before Davidson became a resident of the city.

WITH THE X RAYS

Supt. Davidson Has His Injured Left Arm Examined in Chicago.

General Superintendent Davidson, of Oglebay, Norton & Co.’s mining interests in this peninsula, has been assured by Dr. A.I. Bouffler [*sic* – *Bouffleur*], the famous Chicago surgeon, that he will ultimately recover the use of his left arm, but it will be necessary to resort to heroic measures in order to do so.

It will be remembered that, several months ago, in coming down the hill from the Traders mine, Mr. Davidson was thrown from his bicycle with great violence, striking

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on his left shoulder. It was not believed at the time that any bones were broken, and it was thought that the injuries would mend in the course of a few weeks. The arm was favored in every way, but the injuries refused to respond to the usual remedies. The pain at times is almost unbearable, and Mr. Davidson was unable to use the member in the slightest degree.

Finally Mr. Davidson, at the suggestion of Dr. Crowell, went to Chicago and submitted his arm to an X Ray examination. The examination was made by Dr. Bouffleur, and it was discovered that the bone at the shoulder socket had sustained a compound fracture and was out of place. Dr. Bouffleur assured Mr. Davidson that if he would persist in exercising the member a little each day he would in the course of several months regain the use of it. As the slightest movement of the member causes Mr. Davidson excruciating pain, the treatment recommended is a most trying one. Mr. D. will persist in carrying out the instructions, however, and his host of friends hope that he will find it successful, even beyond the expectations of the physicians.

As mentioned above, Davidson was chosen to succeed James MacNaughton as the general superintendent of the Oliver Iron Mining Company's mines on the Menominee Iron Range. The *Iron Mountain Press* ran the following article Thursday, June 13, 1901 [Volume 6, Number 3], announcing his appointment to the position he would hold for the next 30 years.

IT IS MR. DAVIDSON

That Popular Gentleman Will Succeed Manager James MacNaughton.

Otto C. Davidson, for many years general superintendent of the mining operations of the Commonwealth Iron company and the well-known Cleveland firm of Oglebay, Norton & Co., on the Menominee range and elsewhere, succeeds James MacNaughton as general manager of the mines of the United States Steel corporation on this range.

The appointment was decided upon last week, after a conference with Mr. Cole, who is manager of all the mines of the big corporation, and on Monday last Mr. Davidson entered upon his duties. Mr. Davidson will make Iron Mountain his headquarters and will remove his family here from Commonwealth at an early date.

The appointment is a most popular one with all classes of people. Mr. Davidson is a warm personal friend of Mr. MacNaughton, the retiring manager, and through his connection with the Antoine Ore company and the Aragon at Norway, has won the high regard of the great mass of the citizens of Dickinson county who will welcome him heartily as a citizen.

Of Mr. Davidson's ability as a mining man, the Dickinson county public is so well informed that further comment would be entirely superfluous. He is a model manager in all that the term implies. An excellent judge of human nature, quick to recognize and reward merit, he has been enabled to win and retain the confidence of his fellowmen in a degree possessed by few men. This has been his history with the Commonwealth company, and we have only to look around to gain evidence of the fact. Under Mr. Davidson's management the Commonwealth has been a veritable

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“school of mines,” from which some of our most capable mining men have graduated, and who were advanced to lucrative positions as rapidly as their merit deserved and opportunities offered.

Mr. Davidson came to the range in the early days from Green Bay, and, we believe, was first employed at the old Brier Hill mine at Norway. Later, he was assistant superintendent at the Florence mine, which position he resigned to accept that of superintendent with the Commonwealth Iron company. This was some twelve years ago. His career as a mine superintendent has been a record of successes, the greatest of which was the acquiring of the Aragon mine for his company. This property was in a bad stage of general demoralization at the time it was purchased and had been in *[sic]* the market awaiting a purchaser for some time. The machinery was antiquated and the shafts little better than wrecks. There was an uncertainty regarding the ore body and the water problem was a serious one.

To-day *[sic – Today]* no mining property in the Lake Superior district has as modern machinery. All the problems which had frightened intended purchasers away were quickly solved by Mr. Davidson and in a thorough manner. A nearly worthless property was developed and enriched to such an extent that, at the end of a few brief years, it was considered one of the most valuable in the Lake Superior region and was sold a few weeks ago for the large sum of \$2,500,000.

In assuming the duties of his new position, Mr. Davidson will have the confidence and complete sympathy of “every man on the job” and of every citizen. That he will prove a worthy successor of Mr. MacNaughton is certain, and the Steel corporation is to be congratulated in being able to secure so *[sic – such a]* splendidly equipped manager for this range. And the

people of Iron Mountain – and the men employed in and about the mines of the corporation – are to be congratulated that Mr. Davidson has accepted the place.

Shortly after this appointment was made, Davidson’s duties were extended to include the superintendency of the Oliver Iron Mining Company properties on the Gogebic Range.

The Davidsons quickly settled into the commodious general manager’s house at 25 Location with their four sons. According to one of the sons, they were closely supervised by their parents and servants, and were seldom allowed to leave the confines of the yard. In all probability this caution was the result of their Uncle Willie’s kidnapping back in 1881, and their parents’ fear that their children, too, could become victims, due in part to Davidson’s position of authority.

However, other children were welcomed to come and play with the Davidson boys. Over the years a variety of recreational equipment was installed on the grounds. There were riding horses, shuffleboard courts, an indoor two-lane bowling alley in a separate building and a swimming pool.

The gardens were expanded and three full-time gardeners were employed, also serving as informal bodyguards for the children. A number of maids were responsible for maintaining the house, and the head of the housekeeping staff for many years was Mrs. Isaac (Mary) Soderberg. Mrs. Soderberg’s husband was instantly killed at B Ludington Shaft of the Chapin Mine at 7:45 a.m. January 22, 1901, when he was struck on the head by a falling slab of wood while taking timber out of the east skip on the seventh level.

Davidson was active in the community and beyond, serving in a variety of capacities. In April, 1902, he was elected third ward supervisor in Iron Mountain, and

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was named chairman of the Board of Supervisors May 13, 1925, serving in that capacity until March, 1933. He was also elected president of the Commercial Bank in 1902, maintaining that post until January, 1938, and then remaining as a director until his death. Davidson was also president of the Iron Mountain Publishing Company and a member of the Rotary Club. In November, 1902, Davidson was appointed to the Board of Control of the Marquette Branch Prison, serving until February 15, 1905.

Davidson was also a stockholder in the Twin Falls Land Company which owned the water power at Twin Falls and several hundred acres of land in the vicinity. Lewis T. Sterling, of Iron Mountain, recognized the power potential in this property and the necessity for increased electrical power as the area continued to grow and prosper. He proposed that the company dispose of its holdings to a new corporation to be known as the Peninsular Power Company at a meeting of the stockholders May 5, 1911. The stockholders were in agreement, and the articles of incorporation were filed with the Wisconsin Secretary of State May 10. When officers were selected in Madison, Wisconsin, May 25, Davidson was named president. Construction of the Twin Falls Hydro-Electric Plant began late in June, and was in operation by mid-January.

As a result of a new United States Steel Corporation pension regulation providing for the retirement of all employees more than 70 years of age, Davidson retired May 1, 1931, with Assistant Superintendent George C. Eisele assuming his duties with the Oliver Iron Mining Company. That same month Davidson was presented with the degree of Doctor of Engineering in ceremonies at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology at Houghton.

The Davidsons purchased the home in which they had lived since 1901 and 3.5 acres of land from the Keweenaw Land Association, Ltd., October 15, 1934. They remained in Iron Mountain, still active in the community, until Davidson's death at his home Sunday morning, December 5, 1943, at the age of 86, following a lingering illness.

A year later Mrs. Davidson sold the house to Martin D. Thomas and F. Albee Flodin, two of the men instrumental in the development of the Chippewa Club. She spent her winters in Florida, but maintained Iron Mountain as her voting residence. Charlotte Davidson died Saturday evening, May 4, 1957, in St. Petersburg, Florida, following a long illness.

On the following pages, the obituaries of Otto Conrad Davidson, Charlotte Sargent (Dickinson) Davidson and James MacNaughton have been reproduced. The story of the evolution of the Chippewa Club will follow a photograph section.

OBITUARY OF OTTO CONRAD DAVIDSON

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 201 [Monday, December 6, 1943], page 2, column 1

O.C. DAVIDSON DIED SUNDAY AT HIS HOME

Otto C. Davidson, 86, former superintendent for the Oliver Iron Mining company on the Menominee and Gogebic ranges, and resident here for 42 years, died at about 6:30 yesterday morning at his residence, on North Carpenter avenue, after a lingering illness from complications.

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A son of the late Tonnes Davidson, he was born June 22, 1857, in Green Bay, Wis. His father, born in Norway, emigrated to America when a young man and worked as a ship's carpenter in Milwaukee for a few years, before moving to Green Bay, where he followed the same trade until his death at 90 years of age.

Receiving his early education in the public schools of Green Bay, Mr. Davidson, when only 156 years of age, became a bank clerk at Green Bay and remained there until 1882. Locating then in Norway he was a bookkeeper at the Briar [*sic* – *Briar*] Hill mine for a year and was named superintendent.

Returned to Green Bay

After another year at Briar Hill he resigned to accept a position as teller in a bank at Green Bay, where he remained until 1886. For two years thereafter he had charge of the Florence Mining company's properties, as superintendent, and in January, 1889, he became superintendent of the Commonwealth mine, with which he was actively associated until 1901.

Coming in that year to Iron Mountain, Mr. Davidson was named superintendent of the Oliver company's properties on the Menominee Range, and subsequently for both the Menominee and Gogebic ranges, with headquarters in Iron Mountain. He retired from active work on May 1, 1931, and was succeeded by George J. Eisele, of this city.

Mr. Davidson, in 1902, was elected president of the Commercial bank of this city and remained in that office until January, 1938, when he was succeeded by W.W. Thompson. Mr. Davidson remained a bank director until his death.

He was a member of Washington Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, of Green Bay, Wis.; the Marinette chapter, Royal Arch Masons; Marinette Commandery, Knights Templar, and the

Milwaukee Consistory. He was also a life member of the Knights of Pythias.

Elected Supervisor

In April, 1902, he was elected third ward supervisor in the city and on May 13, 1925, was named chairman of the board, remaining in that capacity until March, 1933. He missed few meetings during his 30 consecutive years of service on the board.

Mr. Davidson was one of the organizers of the former Peninsular Power company in the city and was its president before the company was taken over by the Wisconsin Michigan Power company.

In May, 1931, Mr. Davidson was presented with the degree of Doctor of Engineering, in ceremonies held at the Michigan College of Mining and Technology.

Married in 1889

Mr. Davidson was married in April, 1889, to Charlotte S. Dickinson, daughter of the former Mr. and Mrs. William Edmund Dickinson, who survives him. Other survivors are four sons, Ward F., of Port Washington, N.Y.; Harold O., of Appleton, Wis.; Major Norman H. Davidson, with the Army at the Syracuse Air Base, New York, and Otto C. Davidson, Jr., of Rochester. There are 10 grandchildren.

The body may be viewed after 8 tonight at the Freeman Funeral home. Funeral services will be conducted at 1:30 Wednesday afternoon at the funeral home by the Rev. N.U. McConaughy, pastor of the First Presbyterian church. Burial will be in Cemetery park.

The family has asked that flowers be omitted.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 204 [Thursday, December 9, 1943], page 2, column 1

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OTTO C. DAVIDSON

Services for Otto C. Davidson, 86, pioneer Iron Mountain resident who died Sunday morning at his residence, were held yesterday afternoon at the Freeman Funeral home, the Rev. N.U. McConaughy officiating. Burial was in Cemetery Park.

Pallbearers were John Giovanini, Elmer Hicks, Sam Tretheway, William Jacobson, Warner Bjork, Fred Knight, Herbert Beard and Sam Alvar.

Out-of-town relatives and friends here for the funeral were Ward F. Davidson and Ward F. Davidson, Jr., Port Washington, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Harold O. Davidson, Appleton, Wis.; Major Norman H. Davidson, with the Army at Syracuse air base; Otto C. Davidson, Jr., Rochester, N.Y.; Mrs. J.H. Hearing, Duluth, Minn.; Mr. and Mrs. C. Baxter, Houghton; Mrs. Leslie Coffin, Painsdale; Judge Frank A. Bell and his son, Francis Bell, Negaunee, and Charles J. Stakel, Fred Knight and Adolph Bowman, Ishpeming.

OBITUARY OF CHARLOTTE SARGENT (DICKINSON) DAVIDSON

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 37, Number 22 [Monday, May 6, 1957], page 2, column 1

MRS. DAVIDSON DIED SATURDAY IN FLORIDA

Mrs. Charlotte Sargent Davidson, 88, of Iron Mountain, widow of the late O.C. Davidson, former superintendent of the Chapin mine for the Oliver Mining Co., died Saturday night at St. Petersburg, Fla., following a long illness.

Mrs. Davidson was born Feb. 13, 1869, at Stamford, Conn., daughter of [the] late William Edmund Dickinson and Elizabeth Sargent Dickinson. The family moved to Ishpeming in 1807 [sic – 1877], where Mr. Dickinson was in charge of the New York mine.

In 1881, the family moved to Commonwealth, Wis. Mrs. Davidson was educated in Boston, Mass., and at Ferry Hall, Lake Forest, Ill. She was married to O.C. Davidson April 3, 1889, at Bessemer, and returned to Commonwealth, where Mr. Davidson was in charge of a mining operation there.

Member of the DAR

Mrs. Davidson was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Chippewa Chapter, and served as regent of that organization for many years. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary of Iron Mountain, and the Auxiliary of the General Hospital. During World War I, Mrs. Davidson served as chairman of production for the American Red Cross Chapter of Iron Mountain.

Although Mrs. Davidson had spent the past 12 winters in St. Petersburg, Fla., she retained her voting residence in Iron Mountain.

She leaves four sons, Ward F. Davidson, of Port Washington, N.Y.; Harold O. Davidson, of Seattle, Wash., and O.C. Davidson, Jr., and N.H. Davidson, of Rochester, N.Y.; two brothers, Edmund S. Dickinson, of Tomahawk, Wis., and Frank S. Dickinson, of Granite City, Ill.; a sister, Mrs. Guy McCall Burton (Lucetta W.), of St. Petersburg, Fla., and 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

The remains will arrive Wednesday night on the Milwaukee Road Chippewa, and will be brought to the Freeman Funeral Home.

Friends may call beginning at noon Thursday.

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Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 37, Number 27 [Saturday, May 11, 1957], page 2, column 1

MRS. CHARLOTTE S. DAVIDSON

Services for Mrs. Charlotte S. Davidson, who died Saturday in St. Petersburg, Fla., were held at 2 yesterday afternoon at the Holy Trinity Episcopal church. Rev. Cannon J.W. Robertson conducted the service.

Organist Mrs. R.C. Hanna played prelude and postlude music for the service.

Pallbearers were Dr. W.H. Alexander, Abbott M. Fox, William F. Russell, George J. Zaio, Norman C. Bartholomew and Lewis G. Eisele. Burial was in Cemetery Park.

Attending from away were Mr. and Mrs. Ward Davidson, of Port Washington, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. H.O. Davidson, of Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Jucetta [sic – *Lucetta*] Burton, of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Mr. and Mrs. Otto C. Davidson, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Norman H. Davidson, of Rochester, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Davidson, of Madison, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. Warren Weber and Edmund Dickinson, of Tomahawk, Wis.; Mr. and Mrs. John Hearing, Jr., of Hibbing, Minn., and Mrs. Roy Bowen and Mrs. F.W. Hopkins, of Ironwood.

OBITUARY OF JAMES MACNAUGHTON

Daily Mining Gazette, Houghton, Houghton County, Michigan, Volume L, Number 216 [Thursday, May 26, 1949], page 1, columns 2-3 and page 2, columns 2-4

JAMES M'NAUGHTON, C. & H.

EX-PRESIDENT, DIES TODAY

Mr. James MacNaughton of Calumet passed away at his home at 8:30 this morning after a lingering illness.

A dominant figure in the copper mining world for 40 years, Mr. MacNaughton attained prominence when he became superintendent of the Calumet & Hecla on July 1, 1901. Other Michigan men have won a place in the front ranks of progressive mining men outside their home state, but Mr. MacNaughton achieved his place without leaving Michigan.

James MacNaughton was born on March 9, 1864, at the Bruce Mines, Ontario. At the age of three months he came with his parents to Michigan and settled in Hancock, where the family remained until 1867. His father, the late Archibald MacNaughton, had charge of operations at the head of the "incline," the being the place where the Hecla & Torch Lake railroad then ended, the loaded rock or ore cars being let down an incline railroad to the mills.

Mr. MacNaughton attended the Lake Linden public schools and when he was 11 years of age, worked as a waterboy at the C. & H. coal docks in Lake Linden. At 16 years he left school and became a switch tender on the company's railroad and a year later began operating a stationary engine on the incline or gravity road. After three years he went to Oberlin College, remaining there one year, and then entered the University of Michigan to take a course in engineering. In 1886, he returned home to enter the employ of the company as a surveyor and draftsman and in February, 1889, he left to take a position as mining engineer at the Chapin mine at Iron Mountain. In May, 1890, he was appointed assistant superintendent of the Chapin and in March, 1892, became general manager.

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[Beatrice M. Blomquist and William John Cummings]

At that time, the Chapin was the premier iron ore producer in the state.

Returned to C. & H.

On July 1, 1901, Mr. MacNaughton returned to Calumet at the request of Alexander Agassiz, president of Calumet & Hecla, and was placed in charge of the company's properties, succeeding S.B. Whiting and S.D. Warriner, his title being superintendent. Later he was appointed general manager and vice president and in December, 1926, was elected president of the company, retaining the position of general manager. He resigned both positions on April 1, 1941, bringing to an end four decades of executive direction of a mine that became world famous.

During this time, he guided the destinies of the company from a small beginning through an expansion program that included absorption of the Fay and Bigelow groups and many other old and new properties in the Copper Country and subsequently the name of the corporation was changed to the Calumet & Hecla Consolidated Copper company, with mines extending from the Manitou in Keweenaw down through Houghton county and as far south as the White Pine in Ontonagon county.

Under Mr. MacNaughton, Calumet & Hecla enjoyed many years of great financial success and the wise provisions made by him for the future made the name Calumet & Hecla a dominant one in mining circles for over half a century. His position as head of the Calumet & Hecla and its subsidiary mines made him a commanding figure and at the peak of operations, an army of more than 12,500 men was under him – ranking the Calumet & Hecla corporation among the largest employers of labor in the state for many years.

As chief of a large corporation, Mr. MacNaughton was able to carry out the spirit of his company in looking after the

welfare of its employes [*sic – employees*]. His private beneficences [*sic – beneficences*] were unostentatious, in keeping with his character.

Honored by the G.O.P.

Although a busy man, Mr. MacNaughton found time to devote attention to matters of public welfare. He was selected as a delegate to Republican National conventions on several occasions, as a delegate at large from Michigan at the Chicago National Republican convention in 1890 and was a presidential elector in 1900. He also was a member of the Board of Control of the Michigan College of Mining & Technology and for many years served as supervisor of Calumet township. In addition to these interests, he was for many years a director of the Mineral Range and Duluth South Shore & Atlantic railroads and in former years was a director of the Old Colony Trust company of Boston, Mass.

Honors for distinguished service to the mining industry were twice bestowed upon Mr. MacNaughton. On February 20, 1935, he was presented with the William Lawrence Saunders medal for outstanding achievement in the field of high cost mining. This distinction was bestowed by the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

In 1930, he received the degree of Doctor of Science from the Michigan College of Mining & Technology.

In 1892, Mr. MacNaughton was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Morrison, daughter of the late John S. Morrison. Mrs. MacNaughton died in March, 1922.

Surviving is a daughter, Mrs. E.R. Lovell[,] of Hubbell, a grandson, Robert G. Lovell[,] of Houghton, a student at [*the*] Michigan College of Mining and Technology, and a great grandson, Robert G., Jr., also a sister, Mrs. A.A. Davis, of Houghton.

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Funeral services will be held from the residence at 2:30 Saturday afternoon. The Rev. Joseph d. Ryan, pastor of the Calumet Congregational-Presbyterian church, will officiate and burial will be in the Lake View cemetery.

THE CHIPPEWA CLUB, CENTER FOR AN EXPANDING ECONOMY

By Beatrice M. Blomquist

It seems fitting that the former home of "O.C. Davidson," as he was almost always called, should become the Chippewa Club, dedicated to bringing business and prosperity into the area.

Possessing a keen business mind, Davidson devoted years to improving the life of the community in a personal way when he served as a member of the board of supervisors for over three decades. He served for an even longer period of time as president of the Commercial National Bank.

Charlotte Davidson was as community spirited and as busy as her husband, giving years of service as a volunteer with the auxiliary of the hospital and with the local chapter of the American Red Cross. In addition, she was active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The men who organized the Chippewa Club were no strangers to Mrs. Davidson, and she was known to favor the use of her home as a private club where area businessmen could entertain clients comfortably and privately. In the early forties the local area had no suitable place where executives could meet for private business discussions and at the same time be sure of securing food and lodging

without too much inconvenience. The Dickinson Hotel had not yet embarked on Dave Kennedy's renovation program, and there were as yet no motels providing suitable meeting rooms.

William Lewis, a charter member of the Chippewa Club, still resides in Iron Mountain and shares his personal experience. He and Albee Flodin, then president of Lake Shore, Inc., had been in Pascagoula, Mississippi, at the Longfellow House, a private club owned and operated by Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation.

"It was a really delightful place to stay," Lewis said, adding that the subject of such a place for Iron Mountain came up for discussion. He remembers it clearly, he points out, because it was during the Christmas holiday of 1944 and the Flodins and Lewises were together for an evening. The idea of having such a place for our area was very appealing, but rather remote, he said.

Before too long, someone mentioned that Russ Bath reported that the Davidson house was for sale, and Albee Flodin moved to investigate. Within days, according to Lewis, he had made the deal for the property to be purchased by Lake Shore, Inc., for use as a club.

A preliminary meeting for the purpose of organizing the club was held on February 3, 1945, at the "6-7-8" clubroom in the Commercial Bank building. Jack Benham, who worked enthusiastically for the idea, opened the meeting and explained its purpose to the group attending. These included Dr. William Alexander, Alex Chalmers, Jack Benham, Wally Thompson, Albert Hoyle, Robert Hoyle, Al Klevgard, William Lewis, Frank Russell, Sr., Dr. Herb Huron, Dr. Clifford Menziesw, Charles Madden, Martin Thomas, Ben Seaman, Albee Flodin, William Cudlip, Wilbur Thompson, Abbott Fox, Rex Wells, William Cochran, Carl Miller, Louis Eisele, William

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Russell, Roemer Smith, Dave Kennedy, Ted Kingsford, Abe Buchman, Don Smith, Ray Turner and Samuel (Bokey) Khoury.

Albee Flodin was elected temporary president and Charles Madden temporary secretary-treasurer. A temporary board of directors was elected to investigate the feasibility of organizing the club to make a canvas of proposed members. These were Alex Chalmers, Dr. Herb Huron, John Heuser, of Milwaukee, Dr. Clifford Menzies, Carl Miller and Ben Seaman.

The name "Chippewa Club" was chosen and by-laws were drawn up and approved.

The first membership meeting was held on May 15, 1945. By April of the same year the membership grew to 140. A limit of 150 members had been agreed upon.

Charter members drew lots for individual numbers which they hold as long as they are members. It was agreed that Albee Flodin would have number one. Some 839 members have been registered, and no numbers are transferred. The 1984-1985 membership list includes some 393 resident members and 77 non-resident members.

A House Is Transformed into a Clubhouse

Remodeling a house into a clubhouse poses many problems, but in 1945, when the country was winding down its war with Germany and with Japan, the job was almost mind-boggling. Almost everything was in a state of chaos.

One thing was certain: The Davidson house and grounds were in the hands of the founders of the Chippewa Club. The spot, located in "25" Location, is part of the SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 25, T40N, R31W. The date of purchase from Charlotte Davidson was January 10, 1945. Purchasers were F. Albee Flodin and Martin D. Thomas. The Cost: \$3,500.

They in turn sold the property to Lake Shore Engineering Company, and it was held by them during a period of remodeling. In December of 1946 the Chippewa Club purchased the property from Lake Shore.

In the meantime, a board of trustees was elected to borrow money to pay for the property and to arrange financing of all subsequent improvements and personally endorse loans. The only surviving member of the three-man board of trustees is Mario Fontana. The other two were Ray Turner and Alex Chalmers.

Because of the war, materials were in short supply and much ingenuity would be needed to have the club ready to open in the late spring.

Robert Hoyle, who at that time was handling advertising for Lake Shore, Inc., was asked by Albee Flodin to evaluate what it would take to make the house into a club. Hoyle had experience in transforming old taverns into modern ones during the war.

"We had made neon signs and neon lighting and it added a lot," he said. He set to work with his remodeling experience and work began on the Chippewa Club.

Hoyle tells that Nat Bolognesi was head carpenter, working for one dollar an hour. All the other carpenters got seventy-five cents an hour. "It sounds awfully cheap," Hoyle said, "but Ford Motor Company was only paying five dollars a day!" When Nat Bolognesi came to work he brought his own table saws and other tools.

In those days a club was allowed to spend only \$1,000 on remodeling. "That doesn't sound like a lot, and it wasn't," Hoyle said. Still, at a dollar an hour you can do a lot, he pointed out, but you couldn't buy anything you didn't really need.

The Davidson house was all zoned so that one of the many fireplaces could heat various rooms in winter by using sliding doors to close off the area to be heated. The doors and fine woodwork in the house

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were utilized to build a bar in what was called “the carriage room.” The beautiful doors, all hand-rubbed, were polished to a shine. The stools were all made out of the moldings or trim around the door frames.

The carriage room was the place where people descended from the carriage onto a set of very low steps and stepped up into this room. The men boarded up the steps and installed a window in the doorway. The bar was just off the little sitting room which remains unchanged at the club.

Changes were made in the downstairs area to provide more open space for dining and the kitchen was enlarged and improved.

The Club Opens in May

The first manager hired by the club was named Pierre, who had been a chef at the Milwaukee Athletic Club and knew exactly what was needed in a dinner club. Hoyle tells that the club sent him down to Chicago with Pierre on a purchasing trip to buy all the dishes, pots and pans and all the chafing dishes. He was to see that Pierre did not overspend. He says that it was a good thing that Thelma and Albee Flodin and Dr. and Mrs. William Alexander came to Chicago and helped out. It seems Pierre had wildly expensive tastes.

Everything seemed in order for the club opening. The club had hired M.B. Sanborn, who had been a railroad steward, an expert at serving meals on trains. And they hired Hugo, who had been a cook for Ringling Brothers in Sarasota, Florida.

Everything needed to make the club look beautiful and allow for greatest efficiency had been unpacked and everything was going fine.

But the night before the opening Pierre left! The club had no manager for the opening.

Robert Hoyle spent the next six months as manager and bartender.

However, the opening went on as scheduled. Charter members say that Hugo was an outstanding chef and he took Lena Garagiola, who was working at the club, and taught her what he knew. In time Lena was just as good as Hugo. Some say better.

Robert Hoyle has much to say about the scarcity of meat during the days of rationing when you went shopping with red stamps and blue stamps. The red stamps were for meat. Nobody had any meat at home, so when they came to the club they wanted meat.

Members credit Max Zacks with saving the club. A supper club with no meat to serve! Max helped them out by finding three twenty-pound hams for them each month.

The bar suffered as well, since, unless you had a quota, you were unable to secure good quality whiskies or other beverages.

In November, M.B. Sanborn became club manager.

Club officers at the end of the first year included F. Albee Flodin, president; Charles Madden, secretary-treasurer; Anne Rainaldi, assistant secretary, and M.B. Sanborn, manager.

Members of the Board of Governors were Carl E. Miller, Dr. John Towey, David Archie, Steve F. Krause, Dr. W.H. Huron, Mario Fontana, Alex M. Chalmers, Ben Seaman and F. Albee Flodin.

Dr. Herb Huron tells of the beautiful formal gardens that lay to the south of the house. On a small rise, one can still see the framework for the garden gate that led into the beautifully landscaped area. White lilacs were a specialty there.

Beyond, to the west, was the swimming pool. The pool was remodeled, cleaned up and filled with water in the summer time. For a few seasons it was kept ready for

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members, but few ever used it. However, the neighborhood children would climb the fence and swim when they got a chance to. It proved to be an attractive hazard for children, so the club finally gave it up.

A bowling alley was south of and a little west of where the carriage house still stands alongside the drive.

Also on the grounds was a stable of horses.

Dr. Huron said that if you look for them, you can still see the stakes for horseshoes and you can see the place for playing shuffleboard.

A Climate for Good Business

Immediately after the Chippewa Club was organized it became the meeting place for representatives of various corporations and businesses who had contracts to let or other interests that could favorably affect the economy of the surrounding areas.

One of the first major efforts was the presentation by Chippewa Club members to the government when a site for a Veterans' Hospital was being sought. Flodin, Thomas and Benham were prime movers and other officers of Lake Shore, Inc., worked hard on it as well. V.A. officials and others connected with the study were lodged at the Chippewa Club and given an intensive pitch on the reasons why Iron Mountain was a highly suitable site for a hospital. Pictures and diagrams showed the population within a 150-mile radius, comparing our location with that of the other applicants – Marquette and Escanaba – both bound along one side with water.

Another major effort involved representatives of the company exploring the possibility of starting pelletizing at the Groveland Mine in the 1950's. Again the Chippewa Club was the base from which the mining people explored the subject.

First a pilot plant was built and the results were good. The gigantic pelletizing plant was built at the Groveland.

Louis Pedo, who came to the Chippewa Club as manager in 1947, said that the highlight of his entire twenty-three years at the club was the constant stream of dignitaries and interesting people who were brought in as guests by members. He says he knows the great things that were accomplished in business discussions at the club.

Pedo named Arthur and William Grede, who were brought to the club for discussions and went on to build a foundry in Kingsford. He also mentioned the exciting Japanese men from Mitsubishi Corporation who bought Lake Shore plans for over-deck loaders, and then mentioned the Swedish skiers who were lodged at the club.

"There was always something going on," he said.

Immediately after the war and for quite a few years after, there was a flurry of activity here because of increased demand for marine equipment. America's merchant fleet was virtually destroyed and our U.S. Navy fleet was depleted. Winches made for the maritime were made at Kimberly Clark in a converted paper storage warehouse behind the theater in Niagara. Winches are Lake Shore's biggest item, and they were also being made at Akron, Ohio, during the war as well as after.

Underground mining equipment was going great guns, too, made in Marquette.

Related to all of these, officials would come here on business relating to orders and would be lodged at the Chippewa Club.

There was a great surge of building ships by Ingalls, Newport News, Bethlehem Steel and New York Shipbuilding, and equipment was built for them at Marquette, Niagara and in Iron Mountain-Kingsford.

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Louis Pedo shakes his head in wonder when asked if he can name some of the distinguished visitors he has helped at the club. “Oh, there are just too many,” he exclaims.

Women Are Busy at the Club

Although the Chippewa Club was started primarily as a businessmen’s club and has been very effective in improving the business climate of our area, from the very first the women have been permitted to become members along with their husbands.

Through the years, women have served as the house committee, traditionally taking care of decorating, teas, once-a-month parties and Thursday luncheons. Committees are drawn from the entire membership. Annually, the women meet as the Women’s Auxiliary to plan the program for the year.

Marian Feldhausen pointed out that there was a change in the way members are selected for the Board of Governors. Previously, nine voting members were selected by the general membership and three were chosen by the Women’s Auxiliary. Since 1978, the three formerly selected by the Women’s Auxiliary are voted for by the general membership.

Valued Employees

Nearly everyone interviewed for historical data for this booklet asked to be sure to mention Louie Pedo and Lena Garagiola. And they also said to mention Rose Pedo, for Louie, Rose and Lena have had a lot to do with the success of the club.

“Good food and good management were standard fare for visitors here,” said one board member. Lena passed away

recently, and she has left a place nobody can fill.

Changes in the House – Some Big, Some Small

The main structural changes made in the Davidson house were outside. The entire front was changed, and a large bar was installed where the porch was located. When the club was first in operation, meals were sometimes served on the screened porch, and some club members miss dining “al fresco,” stating it was “kind of nice.” Today “the front” is the north entrance. When the bar was installed in the porch area, the bar originally built in the former carriage room was removed, and the area was remodeled into the ladies’ powder room. Other remodeling included the installation of a large, new kitchen. On the south end of the residence a diningroom known as the Flodin Room was added, and there is also a large dining area in the middle.

For the record, President Donald DeClark states that “during 1985 a complete refurbishing project is underway which includes closing of lodging facilities and expansion of meeting and diningroom facilities.”

The kitchen is getting a complete renovation again, also, and the basement is being renovated for more improved dining area. A dumbwaiter will be able to service the three levels on which food will be served.

Board of Directors at the 40th Anniversary

Donald DeClark.....President
Lawrence Bonicatto.....Vice-President
Via Thomas.....Secretary

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Thomas Betters.....Treasurer
 Thomas Thomsen.....Trustee
 Richard Black.....Trustee
 Evo Santoni.....Trustee
 Donald Cohodes.....Trustee
 Marian Feldhausen.....Trustee
 Harriet Gernert.....Trustee
 Jean Thekan.....Trustee
 Dee Benjamin.....Trustee
 Ray Pitsch.....Trustee

1982-1983.....Roy E. Miller, Jr.
 1983-1984.....Dr. Paul L. Trump
 1984-1985.....Thomas J. Thomsen

Chippewa Club Past Presidents

1945-1947.....F. Albee Flodin
 1947-1948.....Alex M. Chalmers
 1948-1949.....Rex J. Wills
 1949-1950.....Albert C. Hoyle
 1950-1951.....Thomas R. Renn
 1951-1953.....William H. Lewis
 1954-1955.....James T. Malsack
 1955-1956.....Irving G. Olson
 1956-1957.....Peter B. Mitchell
 1957-1959.....Jerry V. Miksa
 1959-1960.....A.J. Hesterberg
 1960-1961.....Dr. Hugh D. McEachran
 1961-1962.....Elton W. Geist
 1962-1963.....John R. Greenly
 1963-1965.....Dr. W.H. Huron
 1965-1966.....James W. Clark
 1966-1967.....Stanley A. Mahon
 1967-1968.....William E. Raffin
 1968-1969.....Warren J. Brule
 1969-1970.....Charles J. Nelson
 1970-1971.....George H. Norr
 1971-1972.....George C. Neff
 1972-1973.....Clem F. Fleury
 1973-1974.....William C. Verrette
 1974-1975.....Larry W. Juul
 1975-1976.....Donnell Mitchell
 1976-1977.....Raymond J. Branz
 1977-1978.....James W. Verrette
 1978-1979.....Kenneth McGregor
 1979-1980.....Robert A. Fox
 1980-1981.....Ronald A. Dickman
 1981-1982.....Dennis G. Engquist

WILLIE DICKINSON IS MISSING

Among the most haunting and poignant of the unsolved mysteries of the Menominee Iron Range is that of the disappearance of Willie Dickinson, the five-year-old son of Captain William Edmund and Elizabeth (Sargent) Dickinson, on the afternoon of November 1, 1881, in Commonwealth, Marinette County, Wisconsin. The effect of this tragedy on the frantic parents and the sympathetic residents of the communities involved in the search for the lost boy is best captured in the actual articles which appeared in a variety of newspapers for decades, as the family heroically followed any clue which might lead to the recovery of their missing son and brother. – William John Cummings

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 45 [Saturday, November 5, 1881], page 3, columns 3-4

THE sad affair of the loss of Supt. W.E. Dickinson's little son Willie will be found in the Commonwealth column. Up to this morning no tidings have been heard of him. Different rumors are rife, and some hint at kidnapping, but the disappearance, so far, is as much a mystery as ever. Up to the present time the search mentioned elsewhere has been continued. The following is the description in the hand-bills: Is six years old; had on an ulster overcoat, black cap, short grey pants and red stockings, answers to the name of Willie Dickinson. Large rewards are offered for

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his recovery, dead or alive. If alive the reward will be paid and no questions asked.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 45 [Saturday, November 5, 1881], page 3, column 5

Our usually quiet village was startled on Tuesday evening [Tuesday, November 1, 1881] by the report that Capt. W.E. Dickinson's son, Willie, aged about six years, was missing. The news spread rapidly from house to house, and was quickly communicated to Florence. Men turned out readily and the woods in the vicinity were examined without finding any trace of him. The weather had been unusually fine during the day, but at night a snowstorm set in, and Wednesday was chilly, with snow falling at intervals. Everybody in both places who could leave turned out on the search. Men went out on foot, on horseback and in wagons, and a partially systematic hunt was made. The steam whistles of both the Florence and Commonwealth engine houses were blown at short intervals nearly all the time, day and night. In the event of the boy being found a succession of sort sounds were to be blown. The shades of night brought no tidings of the lost one, and the search was renewed on the following day. Capt. Dickinson had meanwhile offered a large reward for the recovery of the boy whether dead or alive, which was supplemented by an additional offer of \$100 by the citizens of Florence, and still later by another \$100 from Manager Tuttle of the mine. About one o'clock on the same day, Thursday, a largely attended meeting was held at Juneau's hall, when it was decided to organize a more systematic method of search. Mr. Alex. Kempt was appointed to take entire charge of the movement, and a captain was selected to take charge of each

ten men. Mr. Kempt assigned each captain and his ten men to take a specified course, so as to examine the entire ground adjacent. This was performed in a thorough and systematic manner. The orders were to station the men and travel about a rod apart, and the different squads apportioned so that the entire territory would be carefully looked over. Other parties had been previously sent as far as Bad Water crossing and Lake Chicagon, as a rumor was current that a number of Indians had been seen in town on Tuesday, and there was a bare possibility that he might have been abducted by them. Night again closed in without any word of comfort for the aching hearts who waited in their pleasant home for tidings of their loved and lost one. The search is still being pursued. The sympathy of the entire community is with the grief stricken parents, and many have been the prayers that have been offered for the recovery of their darling boy.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 46 [Saturday, November 12, 1881], page 3, column 2

MR. J.F. SHAFER has now a band of Indians, [sic] searching for Capt. Dickinson's lost son. The citizens have raised a purse for the purchase of provisions for them, and should they be successful in the search they are to be suitably rewarded. Although the general opinion inclines to the belief that the boy has been abducted, yet Mr. Shafer and the numerous friends of Capt. Dickinson's family are now willing to leave anything undone, when there is the least possible change of solving the mystery. Circulars, a copy of which appears in this issue, have been sent to the chief of police of the different cities around, and to different parties in the several towns adjacent, so

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that no means that suggest themselves, [sic] will be left untried, for the recovery of the child if living or for the finding of the remains, if dead.

FLORENCE MINING NEWS, Florence, Wis.

I avail myself of the medium of your paper, [sic] to tender the heartfelt thanks of myself and Mrs. Dickinson, [sic] to all the citizens of Commonwealth and Florence, [sic] for their active kindness to us in our late misfortune. If it were possible we would thank each one personally, [sic] for their active interests; but as in the endeavor to do so, we know we should have to thank each and every person in the two villages, we trust you will accept from us, through the medium of our local paper, our sincere and earnest thanks, [sic] for your generous labor, [sic] in searching for our lost child.

The last authentic information of the child, [sic] is about 3:30 P.M., Nov. 1st. Since then not a trace of him has been found.

Very Truly Yours,
W.E. DICKINSON.

Commonwealth Mine, November 9th, 1881.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 46 [Saturday, November 12, 1881], page 3, column 3

WILLIE W. DICKINSON'S description: Age six years, hair very dark brown, thin and fine, with tendency to grow in a point at forehead and just below each temple towards the cheek – *not* inclined to curl, penciled eyebrows, the left one with a curve in the center higher than the right one. Blue grey eyes which almost close when laughing, one ear round at the top, the other as if it had been pinched at the rim on

top. Ears good size and well set to the head; not spreading. Teeth grow quite wide apart, are small, has lost one on lower jaw front, and another one coming in its place, several teeth loose in front which he may soon lose, to be replaced by second teeth. Skin very white especially on the body. Large toe on each foot as if swollen and feet apt to blister by rough shoes or much walking. Is quick and energetic in motion, impulsive and quick to resent any indignity or wrong, shy with strangers and not very talkative with those not known to him, very observant and with excellent memory of places, often carries his hands deep in his pants pockets, is fond of playing horse and inclined to tease people playfully, has a decided way of saying "no" with rising inflection of voice when he refuses to do anything, has a merry joyous disposition naturally which might become a sulky one by ill treatment. Is a very affectionate boy easily touched by kindness. Is large for his age.

DRESS: –High neck long sleeved white merino shirt, cotton flannel drawers, red mottled stockings, machine knit, Grey flannel shirt waist, with light pink stripes, brown (mottled) knee pants. Wore No. 11 shoes laced in front with copper toes. Black cloth cap flat on top with visor, ear pieces which he wears often inside the cap, black ulster coat, well worn, mended at the left hand pocket, frayed a good deal at the edges and button holes, and a pair of bright red mittens in pocket, attached together with dark tape.

Any communication with the view of the restoration of the child may be addressed to:

W.E. DICKINSON
Commonwealth, Wisconsin.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I,

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Number 46 [Saturday, November 12, 1881], page 3, column 4

Commonwealth Currency.

Nothing has yet been heard of Capt. Dickinson's son Willie and the case is as much an impenetrable [sic – impenetrable] mystery as ever.

...

J.F. Shafer, [sic] started his Indians into the woods on Thursday, [sic] in search after the lost boy. It is sincerely to be hoped they will be successful.

...

A meeting was held by the miners, on the evening of Nov. 7th, when it was decided to raise a miners [sic – miner's] purse of \$300, to be given to the party, or parties, who will find Capt. W.E. Dickinson's son dead or alive. It is a handsome offer and shows how much they esteem their unfortunate captain and his family. The money has been all subscribed.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 50 [Saturday, December 10, 1881], page 3, column 3

Commonwealth Currency.

Nothing has been heard of Willie Dickinson.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 51 [Saturday, December 17, 1881], page 3, column 4

WE are informed that an attempt was made, [sic] on Friday, [sic] of last week, [sic] to capture a daughter of Captain W.E. Dickinson, [sic] by two men, [sic] in a buggy. They drove along the road as the

school-children [sic – school children] were returning home, and inquired of them, [sic] where the captain's daughter was. Fortunately she was not with the other girls and after some swearing they disappeared. Whether this has anything to do with the disappearance of Willie Dickinson, or not, we do not pretend to say. But whatever the object was, it must have been detestible [sic – detestable], as the men were evidently rough strangers. In any event a double barreled shot gun [sic – shotgun], loaded with buck shot [sic – buckshot], would have been about the right kind of a thing to have interviewed them with.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 3 [Saturday, January 14, 1882], page 3, column 2

SUPT. W.E. DICKINSON, of the Commonwealth mine, offers a reward of \$3,000, for the recovery of his son Willie W. Dickinson, who was lost or stolen, [sic] on the first day of November last. He also offers liberal sums for information, which will assist him in getting the boy back, if alive, or for the body, if dead. It is a sad case and we sincerely hope that the mystery will be speedily unraveled.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 19 [Saturday, May 5, 1883], page 1, column 6

THE sad case of the mysterious disappearance of little Willie Dickenson [sic – Dickinson], of Commonwealth, which occurred one year ago the first of last November, is revived to a certain extent by a letter received by Capt. Dickenson [sic – Dickinson] from a man in Fargo, Da. [Dakota] The writer gave his name, good references, and asked for four pictures of

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the missing child. Other than this he was very mysterious and failed to exactly state whether he had a definite clue or not, but hinted to that effect. The captain is assured of his good intentions and will send the pictures. Capt. Dickenson [sic – Dickinson] is still firm in the belief that his little son is alive and was taken from him by some fiend in human form. Every parent in the land will join us in the heartfelt wish that the child is still alive, in good hands, and the hope that the great Omnipotent will soon be pleased to restore him to the arms of his fond father and mother.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 20 [Saturday, May 12, 1883], page 1, columns 4-6; and page 4, column 3 [with cut of Willie Dickinson]

STILL A MYSTERY!

The Awful Absence of Little Willie Dickinson. The Matter Revived by a Dakota Clue, and the Affair Revamped for the Readers of the News.

As stated in the last issue of the NEWS, the terrible mysterious disappearance of little Willie Dickinson has been revived by several fresh clues, or information from parties who think they have clues. The foremost of these is from a man at Fargo, Dakota. In pursuance of his promise to send the man pictures and descriptions of the lost little one, Capt. Dickinson called at the NEWS office during the week and had printed 300 circulars, containing a cut of the child and a full description of him when last seen, including his characteristics and personal peculiarities.

Willie W. Dickinson, son of Capt. W.E. Dickinson, of the Commonwealth, wealth [sic] mine, left the school house at Common- [sic – Commonwealth,] Wis., to go home, on the first day of November, 1881, in the afternoon. He was then not quite six years old. Willie stopped on his way at the house of his uncle, which was near by [sic – nearby], and got his overcoat which he had left there, and saying to his aunt that he was going home, left the house and started in the direction of his father's residence, which was not far. A teamster from the mine met him and asked him to ride, but the little fellow refused, saying he was in a "hurry to get home to mamma." The two parted, and turning once the driver saw the child proceeding homeward as fast as his little feet could carry him. Just before the teamster met the boy he encountered two strange men in the roadway, who sneaked into the recesses of the thick woods as if to avoid being seen. From their attire, which was better than ordinary, no one would infer that they belonged to the working class. It was about 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon when the teamster met the child, and in about eight minutes afterward Willie's sister Lottie, on horseback in company with a man servant, passed along the same road but saw nothing of either the little one or the strangers. It was always the habit of Willie to go directly home from school and he knew the road well. In fact there was but one other road, a short one, leading to a Frenchman's farm, who knew the little fellow and who says he never knew him to go in that direction at all. He had a strong dislike to going into the woods, unless with his father, and after school was always in a hurry to get to his mamma. In fact the evening was a dreary one, the wind sighed a requiem through the branches of the leafless giants of the forest, and the timber presented no attractions to lure a little child that was hurrying homeward,

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every energy bent towards getting to those who loved him and whom he loved. Willie was difficult to approach in a familiar manner, and was intensely shy with strangers. It was full 6 o'clock before those at the Dickinson household commenced really to worry about the absence of the little one, but a strange feeling quickly enveloped the minds of all and in a very brief space of time they admitted he must be lost, and aid was quickly summoned. By half-past six o'clock the woods were full of men, and the mines, outbuildings, pits, and in fact everything and every place were being thoroughly searched. Those anxious in the hunt for the dear little lost one numbered at least 300. They remained out all night, returning next morning heartsick and discouraged, without having found the slightest trace. The following day the people of both Commonwealth and Florence turned out *en masse* with renewed energies and with a generous kindness which will never be forgotten, searched for the child or traces of him. For days this hunt was faithfully and systematically kept up, with a fruitless result. Each man seemed to put as much practical sympathy into the work as if it was [*sic – were*] his own son instead of a neighbor's. When at least it became evident that the child was not to be found in the woods, and the search was sadly and reluctantly [*sic – reluctantly*] abandoned, small parties of men went volunteering into the woods. Then Mr. Shaefer took a party of Indians – the liberal people of Florence provisioning them – and went in search again with no result but the conviction that the boy never went into the woods.

Meanwhile the family accumulated evidence that the child was stolen and that it was a premeditated plan. Indeed, a Commonwealth boy named Sullivan claims still that he saw the two men throw a bag over Willie's head and carry him off. In

January letters were received from a party in Chicago, who made the statement that he met in the Chicago & North-Western railway depot a man and two women with a child answering the description of Willie Dickinson. This party had read the advertised description of Willie in a Chicago paper. He wrote the trio got into the train with his party which was going to Kenosha, professionally. The man and one woman got off at Kenosha also. There the other woman was joined by a man, tall and light complexioned, who gave the first man a roll of bills. He, the other woman and boy, then got back into the train and went on. The Chicago party knew not where, but heard talk of their intention to do to Ludington, Mich. In the cars the boy came to the party who wrote to Mr. Dickinson, and asked for some water to drink. When asked his name he said "Willie" – and was about to tell the other name when the woman with him snatched him off the Chicago's man [*sic – Chicago man's*] knee and said sharply, "His name is Charlie, and I'm taking him to his uncle and aunt, his father and mother are dead." The boy stoutly denied this and said "my name is Willie, I tell you." This Chicago man then wrote to Mr. Dickinson, who at once sent his wife to Chicago to interview the writer. He – the writer – offered to hunt up the parties he met, purporting to have a clue to their whereabouts, but demanded \$500 in advance for expenses. After due consideration Mrs. D. decided that unless the guarantee was better than the party seemed able to give, that unless he really did have a clue, the money should not be advanced. Subsequent consultation with the family lawyer and Mr. Dickinson confirmed this decision and the other party would agree to no other terms. In March a letter was received by Mr. Dickinson from a gentleman in Culpepper, West Virginia, who had seen an advertisement and picture of Willie in the Police Gazette, saying there

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was a boy boarding near Culpepper who answered the description in all particulars. He assented when asked if his name was Willie Dickinson. It was at once agreed that Mrs. Dickinson should go to Virginia.

On arriving there she found that the parties had in some mysterious manner been notified of her departure from Commonwealth, and her intended destination and left. The story told her was that in the last part of November a man named William Morris arrived at Brandy Station, six miles from Culpepper, with a boy about six years old and took board for the boy at a house isolated, and then went off to work on a farm, grubbing, etc. He hailed from all over the United States, and was a wood chopper. Mrs. Dickinson, disappointed at not finding the child there, determined to find all she could about the matter, yet had no hopes of it being her boy. By careful inquiries she found there was a pair of small pants left by the parties in their hasty retreat. The moment she saw the clothing she recognized them as the ones once worn by Willie, but not the ones he had on when he was stolen. Then by dint of knowledge of Morris's character through inquiries she found that he had a tintype taken of himself; this she finally got and began tracing him up. She found he had taken a ticket for Washington, D.C., and traced him there beyond a doubt. She tried to get the police interested, and telegraphed the Allan Pinkerton detective office in Philadelphia to send a good man to her assistance, and until he arrived she watched night and day every train going to New York, where Morris had said he was going.

At last, needing in her desperate search a kindly word, a gentleman's influence, a woman's sympathy, she called upon Hon. Jay A. Hubbell, an old friend of her husband. At once with a promptness which added greatly to the kindness of the

hospitality, Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell came to Mr. [sic – Mrs.] Dickinson and took her to their house, where everything was done to comfort her and help her in [the] search. Mrs. Dickinson had a large number of Morris' pictures taken from the tintype and distributed to conductors, brakemen and newsmen on every train going out of Washington. Every postman delivering letters in the city had one and every police officer was furnished a copy. When the Pinkerton detective came, he proved a most efficient man. He and Mrs. D. worked together. It was decided that it would be wiser for the poor, anxious mother to return home and give out very publicly that she had given up the hunt, thinking that if Morris was in Washington he would be off his guard and come out of hiding. They had made arrangements to have him captured at once if he came out.

After being home in Commonwealth a week she returned to Washington and Culpepper, then went to the house where the child had boarded. The people there at once recognized the picture of Willie as the boy who had been with them. The boy had said his father was not "that man Mr. Morris," and described a man closely resembling Mr. Dickinson as his father, and spoke of his mother's ponies and two other ponies of his father's, giving the names and colors of each accurately. The lad played mining, and made a childish plan of his father's house at Commonwealth, also speaking of certain rooms in the house and giving their position (relatively) correctly, and giving his brother's correct name. The child seemed very sad and at times as if puzzled about some thoughts of his own which he seemed afraid to speak of. Mrs. Dickinson now determined to find that boy at any cost. She traced Morris through Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and Pennsylvania, [sic – .] In Maryland she heard that Morris had threatened that if she

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ever got up to him he would put a bullet through her head. This seemed to her a more convincing proof than ever that Morris had her boy and wished to avoid her. This, therefore, made her more determined to find him. Having finally lost all clue she went to Rochester, N.Y., having heard through an old chum of his that he intended going there to put the boy to board while he went to sea, bound for Scotland probably. Mrs. Dickinson's idea was to rest at Rochester and watch every incoming train for Morris's arrival, feeling certain that she was ahead of him. She left her first detective in Washington and sent for another to assist her in Rochester.

In about a week she received news that a man answering Morris' description had arrived at Canondauga [sic – *Canandaigua*] with a child. She sent her detectives there at once and having studied up every characteristic of Morris' she knew his probable actions. According to instructions the detective arrested the child who had been put into an orphan asylum, and afterward arrested Morris when he came to visit the child, and telegraphed Mrs. Dickinson[,] who came immediately: [sic – .] As the boy entered the gate of the house where Mrs. Dickinson stopped on her arrival in Canondauga [sic – *Canandaigua*], the mother's heart beat fast, for she was sure it was her dearly beloved child. The walk, the manner, look, everything, was her boy's! She started to her feet in her great joy, rushed to the door, opened it, and God only can know the agony she felt when she found it was not her Willie! There was to all but a mother a startling resemblance, but it was certainly not her boy. Close questioning soon showed her that while the boy had been well drilled as to what he was to say, he was probably not the boy who had been in Virginia. Many of the marks on this boy answered to those on Willie, but they were in different positions. In a

subsequent examination of Morris he acknowledged that he had been in Wisconsin and Michigan. Mrs. D. went to see Morris after he was released and accosted him on the street. He at once, after she introduced herself, began telling wherein the two boys failed to resemble each other. So accurate was his account of details that Mrs. D. decided that he had certainly seen her boy. She asked permission to have a picture taken of the lad and Morris agreed. He said the reason he had threatened to shoot Mrs. D. was he thought she was the mother of the boy. The The [sic] boy afterwards said, "That man Mr. Morris says he can get your boy Willie Dickinson for a heap of money." Morris heard him say that, and immediately asked for a private interview with Mrs. D. [during] which, being granted, he made a proposition to return the boy for \$3,000, if Mrs. D. would swear that they could raise no more. Mrs. D. was to identify the boy, and promise not to prosecute or appear against Morris. When asked when he would return the child he said that there were two other parties in it and he had to fix it up with them. He said he had "been in jobs like that before," and told the whole *modus operandi* of kidnapping children. He ended by saying he asked no money in advance, but would claim the reward when he delivered the boy and it must be paid in cash; also any interference or hurrying with him would not benefit the family, as he could then put the child where he could never be found. Mrs. D. then found she could do no more, so presenting him with a copy of his own picture left him, and sadly returned to her family.

On her return Captain Dickinson having heard a rumor that a white child was seen with a wandering band of Pottawatomie Indians who had been seen in Florence at just the time Willie disappeared, caused competent scouts to be sent among them to

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search the story to its foundation. It was discovered to be an idle tale without any foundation.

The woods and test pits around and about Commonwealth have been carefully and thoroughly hunted through by trained woodsmen and every possible place looked into; neither money, time, nor energy has been spared to trace this saddest of mysteries to its solution. If kind, generous sympathy and prayerful wishes of numerous friends availed to find the boy, he would have been home long ago. The family still believe [*sic – believes*] in his possible return, while the captain is sure the child was kidnapped. It is the hope of all that the Fargo clue will develop into something. There are many who firmly believe the child was lost in the woods, notwithstanding that the most thorough search failed to discover a single trace. By this time Willie, if alive, is about seven years old. He had dark brown hair which was thin and fine, with a tendency to grow to a point on his forehead, and just below each temple. His hair was not inclined to curl in the slightest. He had penciled eyebrows, the left one with a curve in the center higher than the right one; blue grey eyes which almost close when laughing, one ear round at the top, the other as if it had been pinched at the rim on top; ears good size and well set to the head; not spreading; teeth quite wide apart, small, lost one on lower jaw front, and another one coming in its place; several teeth loose in front which he has no doubt lost before this; skin very white, especially on the body; large toe on each foot as if swollen and feet apt to blister by rough shoes or much walking; is quick and energetic in motion, impulsive and quick to resent any indignity or wrong, shy with strangers and not very talkative with those not known to him, very observant and with excellent memory of places, often carries his hands deep in his

pant's [*sic – pants*] pockets, is fond of playing horse and inclined to tease people playfully; has a decided way of saying "no" with rising inflection of voice when he refuses to do anything; has a merry, joyous disposition naturally which might become a sulky one by ill-treatment; very affectionate; easily touched by kindness; is large for his age. A reward of \$3,000 is offered for his recovery.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 21 [Saturday, May 19, 1883], page 1, column 5

CAPT. W.E. DICKINSON, of the Commonwealth, wishes to say that he has caused a thorough search of the surrounding woods, pits and swamps, to be made this spring in the hopes of finding some clue to the lost Willie, but without avail. So carefully was the ground gone over that, [*sic*] a broad-axe [*sic – broad axe*] which disappeared a year ago, [*sic*] was found hidden in the hollow of a basswood tree, covered with brush. It really seems that if the child was lost in the woods some trace, at least, could be discovered.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 22 [Saturday, May 26, 1883], page 1, column 5

A SHORT time ago Capt. W.E. Dickinson received a letter from southern Kansas, requesting him to come there and get his missing boy. The party writing was very confident that he had seen the boy in the neighborhood. It being desirable to avoid the expense of fruitless jounies [*sic – journeys*], a correspondence by telegraph and mail, [*sic*] was opened and a series of questions were sent to the party, asking him to interview the boy and forward his

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replies. The replies have just come to hand, and none of them being correct as to family names or home surroundings, the Kansas boy cannot be Willie Dickinson.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 29 [Saturday, July 21, 1883], page 8, column 1

Personal and Social.

–Mrs. Capt. W.E. Dickinson and daughters Laura and Christie, [sic] left on Wednesday for New York, Stamford, Conn., and Boston, to be gone a year. Mrs. Dickinson's health has been poor for some time and the trip is made in the hope of benefitting it. Miss Laura has just returned from Lake Forest seminary. During their absence Capt. Dickinson will "batch" [*live like a bachelor*] and make sundry improvements on his fine residence in Commonwealth.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 32 [Saturday, August 11, 1883], page 1, columns 3-4

A bright little boy named Dunn, living at Commonwealth, reported on Wednesday, [sic] that while picking blue-berries [*sic – blueberries*] on the plains near Spread Eagle and just south of Le Page's, he had been greatly frightened by discovering a heap of bones and some boy's clothing. It did not take long for the report to spread and it was soon connected with the sad disappearance of little Willie Dickinson. Capt. Dickinson sent men to the scene, under the direction of District Attorney McIntosh and Constable Bush, but they failed to discover anything whatever, although thorough search was made. This

should not be allowed to drop. The very proof that nothing was found indicates the affair to be one that should be followed up. The boy surely did not fabricate the story, as he had no reason therefor, but he undoubtedly saw something. This something should be found if it "takes all summer." It is very difficult for a man to locate himself a second time in the wilds, not to speak of a little 9-year-old boy and it is quite probable the searchers did not traverse the territory where the alarming discovery was made.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 34 [Saturday, August 25, 1883], page 1, column 3

Nothing further has been heard from the alleged finding of a diminutive skeleton and a bundle of small clothes, [sic] by the Dunn child, [sic] near Spread Eagle. There are those who firmly believe the child saw all it [*sic – he*] claimed, that what it [*sic – he*] saw were the remains of little Willie Dickinson and that sufficient search in the vicinity has not been made.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 41 [Saturday, October 14 [*sic – 13*], 1883], page 1, column 6

WILLIE DICKINSON

New Clues Being Followed UP and Important Disclosures Expected Soon to be made in the Case – A Reward of £500 Offered for Him Alive in England – Prospects of Soon Finding the Long Lost Littleone [sic].

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A cablegram to Milwaukee yesterday stated that £500 sterling was offered at Cornwall, England, for the recovery of the lost Willie Dickinson alive, and adding that it was thought the lost boy was some place in the duchy of Cornwall. The cablegram was transmitted to the NEWS by special telegram and a reported was at once detailed to interview Capt. W.E. Dickenson [sic – Dickinson], of the Commonwealth mine, father of the lost little one [sic – little one]. He is greatly surprised at the news of his operations in England reaching this part of the country so soon, as he said the reward had just been published there. "Yes, I am following up an English clue," he said after recovering himself, "about which I wish to say but little, as I might compromise parties unwarrantably. Suffice to say, on the publication in the MINING NEWS of the discovery of bones near here, thought to be the remains of Willie, we had it shown to a convict, who left this neighborhood about the time my boy was taken and he exclaimed with agitation: 'Those bones are not of Willie Dickinson. He was taken to Cornwall and is there now!' This was said to a fellow prisoner who we used as a decoy and it is all the clue we have. I am by no means sure Willie is in Cornwall, or I should be on my way there now. If we find him there it will surprise me greatly, but I do not think it improbable at all. I am following up clues that lead in another direction, by which I am almost sure I will find Willie in this country, but I cannot speak of them, as the utmost secrecy is necessary. Also I have detectives in Mexico, shadowing a woman there, who has a boy answering to Willie's description. I expect important disclosures soon, by which I expect to find my son, but as I said before, it would not do to make the matter public at present."

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 49 [Saturday, December 8, 1883], page 1, column 4

LOST WILLIE

An Additional Chapter Added to the Many That Have Been Written About the Mystery of Little Willie Dickinson – Copy of the Publication of Reward offered in England – Captain Dickinson Hears That Willie is Alive and Well – Close on to him, he is Moved Again – Beliefs Never Before Made Public – Trapper Simpkin's Story – The Eccentric Military Hunter and his Wife – An Interesting Recital – The Veil still Unpierced.

From the West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser, published at Truro, England, obtained through the courtesy of Prof. Frank Scadden, of Crystal Falls, the following publication of the reward offered for the lost Willie Dickinson, is taken:

**£500 REWARD.
FOR CHILD BROUGHT TO CORN-
WALL FROM THE UNITED
STATES.**

The Undersigned will pay the above REWARD for the RESTORATION ALIVE of WILLIE W. DICKINSON, stolen from Commonwealth, Wisconsin, U.S.A.,

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November 1st, 1881, and taken to Cornwall the latter part of that year or early in 1882. A proportionate part of the above reward will be paid for any information that may help in the recovery of the boy. Description: Age seven years; hair very dark brown, thin and fine, with tendency to grow in point at forehead and just below each temple towards the cheek, not inclined to curl; penciled eyebrows, the left one with a curve in the centre [*sic*] higher than the right one; blue grey eyes; one ear round at the top, the other as if it had been pinched at the rim on top; ears good size, and well set to the head; teeth small; skin very white, especially on body; large toe on each foot appears as if swollen; quick and energetic in motion; shy with strangers, and very observant, with excellent memory for places.

All communications will be held strictly confidential. No prosecution nor questions asked. Parties fully satisfied of willingness and ability to pay the reward.

Address U.S. CONSUL, Hayle; or MRS. W.E. DICKINSON, corner of Adams and Hancock Streets, Dorchester, Mass., U.S.A.; or W.E. DICKINSON, Commonwealth, Wis., U.S.A.

Captain Dickinson, the honorable and gray-haired father of the little one [*sic* – *little one*], informs the MINING NEWS that he is almost sure he is now following up the right clue and further he has quite recently heard that Willie is all right, but has been “moved again.” More than this it is not wise to divulge at present. John Ronan, of the “clay-cut” below Commonwealth, with his wife, firmly believes that the child was stolen by a wealthy hunter and huntress, who, as they claim had been hunting in the neighborhood previous to his disappearance; had expressed a great liking for him and disappeared mysteriously at the same time that Willie was missed. A NEWS reporter was detailed to look into the

matter and after a laborious search, including a weary drive to the lonely home of a hermit trapper, situated on a high hill, overlooking two beautiful little lakes, that shared alone the hunter’s isolation, ascertained the following: The fall that Willie disappeared and for several autumns previous thereto, a wealthy gentleman of age quite ripe, with his wife, considerably younger than himself, hunted in the vicinity of Spread Eagle, a region then much frequented by deer, bears, wolves, wildcats and other animals that delight in a *demesne* so little trod by white men, as that was then. This was the wealthy Major Johnson and wife, of Champaign, Ill., an eccentric couple to say the least. They possessed means and life to them was one grand chase. From the everglades of Florida, in winter to the craggy shores of Old Superior in summer, they hunted the wild beasts that roam the forests’ deep retreats. Not here did they limit themselves, but in the Adirondacks, the Alleghanies [*sic* – *Alleghenies*] and the kingly Rockies, did they beard the fierce grizzly in his den and entrap the wary catamount. Their movements were as rapid as their shots were sure. It is even claimed that the lady, quite large and always richly dressed, excelled in the Nimrodic pastimes. Monuments to her prowess are to be had in a mounted lynx in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia and a huge antlered deer, in Central Park, New York. The couple slept where best they could and exposure only wrought them more Spartan like.

These are the people whom Mr. Ronan suspects. But from George W. Simpkins, the trapper referred to above, known as the “Great Illinois Hunter,” who was well acquainted with the military hunter and his wife, it is ascertained that the Johnsons are wrongfully aspersed. He has known of them more or less all of the time that has intervened since Willie’s disappearance and

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from Captain Dickinson himself, it is learned, that Mrs. Johnson died but a short time ago and that the Major is now on his death bed. Trapper Simpkins firmly believes that Willie perished in the woods that wild night that saw him last. "I heerd [sic – heard] him that night; I heered [sic – heard] him," the good old Yankee remarked positively, with a gloomy shake of his head.

"Where did you hear him?" eagerly queried the NEWS reporter.

"I was cout fur deer. The night was bad an' my headlight went cout." Fur shelter I tuk to a bark shanty not fur from Commonwealth. While thar, an' tryin' to light my lamp, I heered him. The cry wus like a woman or a child in distress. Fust I thought it was a varmint, an' arter a listenin' I tuk my gun, put on my lamp an' went cout. But I didn't hear the holler again. Next mornin' I was sent fur to jine the hunt an' the minit I heered the boy wus gon' I sez it wus him I heered. They tole me I didn't; that it wus Miss Dickinson, who was shoutin' with grief histericks. But I know it wasn't. I went as near as I could to the spot where I heerd the holler, but the snow had cum an' I couldn't find nothin'. I shill believe to my dyin' day that I heered the po'r boy holler that drefful night an' if I'd a known some one wus lost, I'd a found him."

This is the end of the old trapper's story. Willie has not been found, although many days have come and gone. The matter is as much a mystery as ever. No stranger case was ever known. No greater efforts were ever made to fathom the ways that seem past finding out. That Captain Dickinson is right in his latest clue, [sic] is the heartfelt hope of all who know of the affair.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume IV,

Number 7 [Saturday, February 16, 1884], page 1, column 4

WILLIE DICKINSON

James Eagan, a Former Florence Tough, Arrested on the Charge of Being Implicated in His Abduction.

Prospects of Interesting Developments Soon to be Made – A Detailed Account of the Matter Prevented by a Fear that Thereby the Workings of the Case Might be Interfered With.

A SENSATIONAL SEQUEL.

On Thursday noon Dist. Att'y McIntosh arrived in Florence with James Eagan, charged with being an accessory to the abduction of Willie Dickinson. Eagan is

A NOTORIOUS TOUGH, whose prison career is quite a feature of his personal history. He formerly kept a bagnio on the land, the supervision of which was in the hands of Capt. Dickinson. Shortly before Willie's abduction, he was ordered off the land, and went, as was then supposed, amicably. After the abduction, Capt. Dickinson paid for Eagan's buildings and he left the country. Circumstances commenced soon after to connect themselves in a manner as to case

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suspicion upon Eagan, as being connected with the

CRIME OF CARRYING OFF

the little boy. Consequently he was sought and found to be incarcerated at Ionia, in Michigan. Shortly before his sentence expired, Mr. McIntosh arrayed himself in proper authority and after working night and day for some time, succeeded in landing Eagan in Florence, as above stated. He disclaims any connection with the affair and is now in custody, awaiting developments, which are expected soon to be made. The MINING NEWS is possessed of the

INNERMOST SECRETS

of the affair, but withholds them from publicity, at the urgent request of both Capt. Dickinson and Mr. McIntosh. In thus doing, we hope to further the best interests of the matter, as much as possible. Capt. Dickinson is very certain that Eagan was connected indirectly with his little son's disappearance. It is the hope of all that he is on the right track. The arrest of Eagan, [sic] caused quite a good deal of excitement and the MINING NEWS will report the matter in detail, as soon as it will not interfere with the working of the case.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 6 [Saturday, February 4, 1888], page 5, column 4

NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS

An Interview With Capt. Dickinson Concerning His Missing Boy

The following alleged dispatch from Florence, purporting to give "startling developments" in the Willie Dickinson

abduction case, appeared in the Evening Wisconsin on Thursday:

"It is stated to-day [sic – today] that the mystery surrounding the disappearance of little Willie Dickinson, the son of Capt. W.E. Dickinson, superintendent of the Commonwealth mine at the neighboring town of Commonwealth, is in a fair way to be cleared up by the return of the boy to his home. It is reported on good authority that within a short time Capt. Dickinson has received assurances that his son is alive and well and that his return to his home is a matter of but a short time. The announcement that the child is alive causes great surprise, as the opinion has been almost universally held, except by the members of the Dickinson family, that the boy was killed and devoured by wild animals and not abducted as Capt. Dickinson has stoutly maintained...When Mrs. Dickinson was in Milwaukee recently, she stated to a Wisconsin reporter that a proposal had been made for the return of her son, the sum of \$10,000 being demanded as a ransom and the affidavit of Capt. Dickinson not to prosecute. The offer was not accepted at that time, but negotiations were pending for the return of her son. Mrs. Dickinson had no idea at that time where the child was or in whose custody."

Capt. Dickinson was interviewed by a MINING NEWS reporter yesterday as to the truth of the statement contained in the above "dispatch." The captain said that, as far as he knew, there was nothing new in the case, and denied that he had received assurances within a short time that his boy was alive and would soon be returned. Over a year ago certain parties, who are believed to have been acting as "go betweens" for the real abductors, offered to return the child to his home for \$15,000. They afterwards decreased the proposed ransom to \$10,000, but the offer was

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rejected, Capt. Dickinson declaring that he could not afford to pay such an exorbitant sum. He was satisfied at the time that the persons who attempted the negotiations were acting in good faith and that they knew where the boy was concealed. Capt. Dickinson informed the MINING NEWS reporter that he stood ready at any time to pay \$3,000 reward for the recovery of his son, Willie, but in justice to himself and his family could not pay a larger sum. He says he is willing at any time to place the amount designated in the hands of any responsible business man [*sic – businessman*] with implicit instructions to pay it over to those having control of the boy, whenever the child is restored to him. The captain, upon receipt of reasonable assurances that the child is really Willie Dickinson, says he is willing to go anywhere to secure the child, and the money will be promptly paid as soon as the latter is identified. Capt. Dickinson, like the father of lost Charlie Ross, has received hundreds of letters from all over the country containing alleged information regarding the child. The majority of the communications were ignored, and those investigated turned out to be fraudulent. Various attempts have been made to extort money from him, and in some cases ominous threats have been made unless the money demanded was not forthcoming.

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 28 [Saturday, August 11, 1888], page 1, column 6

Believed to Have Been Found in a House of Ill Fame at Wausau

Wausau, Wisc., July 7. – Dr. Kate Bushnell, of the Social Purity branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union,

some time ago visited notorious resorts near the city on her mission among fallen women. At one place kept by one Johnson she noticed a young boy stopping there. Growing suspicious she made inquiries. A family residing in the neighborhood told her that the boy had come from Canada. Later Dr. Bushnell met Captain Dickinson and family on a train and told them of her suspicions. The clue to Willie Dickinson was lost in Canada. This caused the suspicion [*sic – the suspicion*] that this was the missing boy. The officers visited the place and now have the boy in custody. He says he has a sister Christine. Willie Dickinson has a sister of the same name. The boy says his people live in Scotland. Johnson, the keeper of the den, says he brought him from Canada seven years ago. It has been discovered that Willie was abducted by people in the ill fame business, and this boy being found in possession of a man of the same stripe serves to confirm the suspicion that he is the lost Willie Dickinson. Captain Dickinson is expected here Saturday, when Johnson's trial takes place. There is much excitement over the supposed implication of officers in league with Johnson and his gang. – Ex. [*Exchange*]

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 33 [Saturday, August 11, 1888], page 5, column 3

SOMEBODY ELSE'S BOY

The Waif at Wausau Not Willie Dickinson

Great Excitement at Wausau Over the

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Reported Discovery of the Long-Lost- Boy in That City – Mrs. Dickinson and Daughter Pay a Visit to Marathon County to See the Alleged Child, but Fail to Identify Him – Interesting Interviews

The following special dispatch from Wausau appeared in the Milwaukee Sentinel on Tuesday:

Dr. Kate Bushnell and Mrs. J.S. Davis, working members of the Social Purity branch of the W.C.T.U. [*Women's Christian Temperance Union*], while visiting a notorious house known as the "Cotton Farm," near this city, gathered evidence sufficient to cause them to believe an abducted boy was housed there. Two policemen and the Rev. J.S. Davis, while going out to make the arrest, were passed on the road by a man on horseback, who had been dispatched by a local liveryman to give warning of the approach of the officers. The minister returned and got the county judge, who made out a warrant for the arrest of Johnson, keeper of the house, and four of the girls. The rest fled through a corn field to the woods, but all were brought to town and put in jail. The parties who made the discovery thought the boy was the missing Willie Dickinson, lost from Florence seven years ago. His mother and sister were here to-day [*sic – today*] at the investigation. They have since gone to confer with the father and the case was adjourned to Saturday. Johnson is out on \$500 bail, and the girls on \$100 each. It is said that several officials are mixed up in the affair.

A representative of the MINING NEWS called upon Mrs. W.E. Dickinson at her pleasant home in Commonwealth, on Tuesday, the day following the return of the lady and her daughter, Miss Lottie Dickinson, from Wausau. After perusing the above clipping, Mrs. Dickinson smilingly

said that the account[,] though somewhat garbled, was substantially correct. She proceeded to relate the circumstances under which the trip was made. Capt. Dickinson and herself were returning recently from a trip up north, when they met Dr. Kate Bushnell on the train. The doctress informed them that there was an abducted boy at Wausau whom she thought was Willie Dickinson. Dr. Bushwell [*sic – Bushnell*] subsequently visited Commonwealth, and after seeing the smaller Dickinson children, was sure she could detect a resemblance between them and the waif at Wausau, though she had seen the latter but once. As Capt. Dickinson had expended large sums of money in various wild goose chases of this kind, none of which has tended to develop new facts concerning the whereabouts of the missing boy, both he and his wife were loth [*sic – loath*] to place too much credence in the doctress' well-meant assurances. The latter thereupon returned to Wausau, paid another visit to the boy, and became more than ever convinced that her surmises were correct. She immediately telegraphed to the Dickinsons, urging them to proceed without delay to Wausau. Mrs. Dickinson and her eldest daughter decided to go, and left for Wausau at once. They found the town all torn up, as it were, with excitement, everybody appearing to be terribly agitated over the matter. The ladies visited the house where the alleged abducted boy was living and talked with the lad and the man Johnson. Both boy and man told rambling stories, no two of which agreed, and long before the conclusion of the interviews they became convinced that he was not the missing Willie. The boy said he was 19 years of age, but Mrs. Dickinson did not believe he was more than 15. As the house was full of people, which fact, the ladies thought, might have had a tendency to confuse the boy,

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they afterwards determined to talk with him privately. A quiet interview was easily obtained, and the result only confirmed the opinion that he was not Willie. "Then you are sure that he was not your son?" asked the reporter. "If I had not been positive that he was not my boy," Mrs. Dickinson replied, "I would not have left him there."

Mrs. Dickinson, in the course of the conversation with the scribe, said that while many people were sure Willie had been lost in the woods, she was just so sure that he had been stolen. Furthermore, she knew who his abductors were and the motive which prompted the crime. Evidence to prove this, and it would be proven when the proper time came, had been in her possession long since. She declared that while she might not live to see her boy again, she had firm faith that her children would some day [sic – someday] see their poor brother. Willie Dickinson was kidnapped November 1, 1881, when in his 6th year. If living he will be 13 years old next January. His mother stated that he was very large for his age, and acted older than a child of 5 years. At the time of his disappearance the boy wore an over coat intended for a boy of 8 or 9 years of age. The interview concluded by Mrs. Dickinson declaring that the family were [sic – was] quietly following a clue which appeared brighter and gave them more hope than any other which had developed since the abduction, but the nature of it could not be safely divulged at the present time. The lady is satisfied that, though years have elapsed since she last clasped her loved one, she would be able to identify him from among a thousand boys – from certain marks upon his body of which even his own father was ignorant of. She had frequently been asked by detectives to describe the marks, but very wisely refused to do so.

An Associated Press dispatch of yesterday stated that Capt. Dickinson was

expected at Wausau to-day [sic – today] (Saturday), to attend the trial of Johnson, the man who has the alleged kidnapped boy in his possession. Capt. Dickinson did not go to Wausau and, since the return of his wife and daughter from that city, has had no thoughts of doing so. He informed a MINING NEWS reporter on Thursday that he and his family were positive that the boy at Wausau was of Scotch parentage, and presumed that he had been sent to this country to seek a home, like hundreds of waifs in the East who are shipped all over the country for people to adopt. The man, Johnson, who was a Canadian of doubtful character, intended to return to Canada with his protégé. Capt. Dickinson stated that he had been working a good clue in Canada in an altogether different case, and thought it quite likely that something would result from it some time. He had made two trips to Canada, and was now quietly awaiting developments. The scribe refrained from questioning the captain regarding the nature of the clue, realizing that the premature publication of the facts now at hand might thwart the ends so much desired by the afflicted family and their thousands of friends and sympathizers.

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume IX, Number 47 [Saturday, November 16, 1889], page 8, column 1

THINKS HIM HER SON

Mrs. Dickinson Believes the Los Angeles Boy Her Lost Willie

LOS ANGELES, Cal., November 14. – Important developments are expected soon

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in the Willie Dickinson case. The father writes under date of of [sic] November 5, to the chief of police, that the presumptions are strong that the boy here is his son, but says he is investigating also a Montana case. The mother adds in pencil that she feels the boy here is her's [sic – hers].

BESSEMER, Mich., November 15. – Mr. Dickinson said to an Evening Wisconsin correspondent to-day [sic – today]: We have received three photographs of the waif at Los Angeles. There is a decided family resemblance, but we are unable to decide if the boy is Willie. I have taken measures to have a thorough examination of the case."

The Florence Mining News. Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume IX, Number 49 [Saturday, November 30, 1889], page 5, column 1

A SAD DISAPPOINTMENT

The California Waif Not Willie Dickinson

The Mother and Sister of the Long Lost Boy Fail to Identify the Los Angeles Lad – Convincing Proof that the Latter is not of Their Kin – Return of the Ladies from the Golden State – Sad Death of a Miner – News Notes Concerning Thanksgiving and General City Happenings.

The MINING NEWS is informed by Capt. O.C. Davidson, son-in-law of Supt. W.E. Dickinson, of the Colby mine, Bessemer, Mich., and formerly of Commonwealth, that the little 14-year-old waif, at Los Angeles, Cal., is not the long-lost boy. When Mrs. Dickinson and daughter, Mrs. Davidson, first saw the

California lad, soon after their arrival at Los Angeles, they were inclined to believe he was really Willie Dickinson, but a searching investigation unhappily resulted in bringing to light incontrovertible evidence that the lad was not their loved one. "Not ours" was the poor mother's message telegraphed to the waiting and expectant husband and father at Bessemer, [sic] a few days ago. The ladies are expected to arrive at Bessemer to-day [sic – today].

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume V, Number 45 [Saturday, December 7, 1889], page 1, column 2

–Mrs. W.E. Dickinson has returned to her home at Ironwood from Los Angeles, Cal., where she went to identify a boy who bore the description of her lost soon [sic – son], Willie. She returned satisfied that the boy was not her son.

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVI, Number 19 [Saturday, September 1, 1894], page 8, column 2

Capt. W.E. Dickinson, formerly of the Commonwealth mine, still has hopes of recovering his son, who so mysteriously disappeared a number of years ago. There is still a reward of \$3,000 deposited in a Chicago bank for his recovery.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 39 [Thursday, February 18, 1897], page 1, column 4

HOW HE DISAPPEARED

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Story of Willie Dickenson [*sic* – *Dickinson*]. – His Mother Has Spent a Fortune in Search for Him.

Speaking of the arrival of the young man who thought he was the lost Willie Dickenson [*sic* – *Dickinson*], the Florence Mining News says: “Willie Dickenson [*sic* – *Dickinson*], it will be remembered, mysteriously disappeared while on his way from school to his home in the village of Commonwealth at three o’clock on the afternoon of Nov. 1, 1881. The boy was between 5 and 6 years old at the time and, if living, would have been of age last month. That he was abducted, there is not a shadow of a doubt. Mrs. Dickenson [*sic* – *Dickinson*] has positive, convincing and undisputed evidence that her boy was stolen. Though little has been said or written for several years past concerning the Willie Dickenson [*sic* – *Dickinson*] case, the unhappy parents of the missing boy have not lost hope of eventually finding him, nor have they by any means abandoned the search, which has already lasted over fifteen years. In fact, Mrs. Dickenson [*sic* – *Dickinson*] is at the present time engaged in working upon three clues, which she is hopeful will lead to favorable results. Mrs. Dickenson [*sic* – *Dickinson*] has repeatedly traveled from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf of Mexico to the British possessions in the north looking for her lost boy and a comfortable fortune has been expended in carrying on the quest. During all these years, this indefatigable, patient and noble woman has met scores of lads who had been stolen from their parents in infancy and she has been the means of restoring a number of the waifs to their parents.”

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 8 [Thursday, June 12, 1900], page 1, column 4

NINETEEN [*sic* – *NINETEEN*] WEARY YEARS

Has Mrs. Dickinson Searched for Her Baby Boy – She is Still Hopeful.

“It is nineteen [*sic* – *nineteen*] years since my lad was stolen. For nineteen [*sic* – *nineteen*] years I have searched incessantly for him and today I know no more of his whereabouts than when I first lost him. But some day I shall find him. God will not let me die until I have.”

This was the way in which Mrs. W.E. Dickinson, who has recently moved from Florence to Milwaukee to live, concluded a story that sounds more like a thrilling novel than a straightforward account of a happening in these modern times. The celebrated “Willie Dickinson” case, which followed so quickly on the heels of the equally celebrated “Charley Ross” case, has grown dim in public memory and even the people who for years believed with Mrs. Dickinson that the boy was still alive have long since given up all hope.

But the mother is still confident and determined. She has spent over \$30,000 in her long quest, she has investigated hundreds of cases of reported abductions, has personally visited 150 stolen children and restored thirteen of them to their families, but only once in all that time has she had a definite [*sic* – *definite*] clue to her own lad, and that she came upon thousands of miles from the spot where he disappeared. Her search has carried her in

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every state in the union, and the experiences she has had with gangs of blackmailers, thugs and roughs whom she encountered, *[sic]* are such that she hesitates to tell them, for fear their accuracy may be doubted, but today she is apparently as far away from her goal as ever unless a certain young soldier stationed with the regular army at a California fort should prove, as there seems a possibility he may, to be the lost boy.

“But I have been disappointed so many times,” said Mrs. Dickinson, “so many times it has seemed from correspondence that I have at last found my lad and so many times I have traveled to the boy to find that he was not my child, that I do not place my hope on any specific case nowadays. Confident, I shall always be and determined to find him in the end, but I dare not place too much reliance on any one case now. If it should be that this young soldier, whose record I have privately investigated and who seems to be a boy any mother would be proud of, is really my lad, I – but you cannot put into words what that would mean. The description of the birth marks and scars on his body tallies with those by which I shall be able to identify Willie, and the photographs which this soldier has sent me bear a strange resemblance to those of my other children. We are writing to each other constantly. He is alone and friendless and calls me his ‘mother friend’ because he says he feels that whether it turns out that I am his real mother or not, he has found a friend in me, as I am sure he has.”