

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

IRON MOUNTAIN: Platted October 29, 1879, by Samuel M. Stephenson, Isaac Stephenson and Joseph Fleshiem on the NW ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 31, T40N of R30W; post office established May 17, 1880, with Renel O. Philbrook, postmaster; early references to Iron Mountain include Section 30, Chapin, Chapin Mine and Iron City; incorporated as a village October 10, 1887; incorporated as a city April 2, 1888.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 44 [Saturday, October 4, 1879], page 2, column 4

[Menominee Range.]

–Work on the **extension of the railroad** west of this place commenced Monday. Men have been arriving for the past few days, and are strung along the line for a distance of two or three miles.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 44 [Saturday, October 4, 1879], page 3, column 4

WHILE on a visit at **Quinnesec**, on Saturday last, we were shown by **John McKenna** over the **McKenna mine** property, and came away with the idea that there was iron enough there to make all the rails for all the railroads in America. Everywhere is iron – nice iron, too – on the surface and under the surface, at the bottom of shafts and at the extremity of tunnels – everywhere iron. The extension of the track of the **Menominee River railroad**, work on which was commenced on Monday, will enable this mine to ship ore next year, and we shall be disappointed if it does not show an output of ore at the close of navigation a year hence as large as any

mine on the range. Nothing is needed but work.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 47 [Saturday, October 25, 1879], page 2, column 3

[Menominee Range.]

–Stripping on the **Cornell mine**, on 20, 40, 30 is progressing rapidly. This promises to be one of *the* mines of the range.

–The **Chapin mine**, on 30, 40, 30, will undoubtedly prove to be one of the best mines on the range. The ore is said to be from one to three per cent richer in metallic iron than the ore in the **Quinnesec mine**, and there appears to be plenty of it.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 47 [Saturday, October 25, 1879], page 3, column 5

THE work on the **extension of the railroad** beyond **Quinnesec** progresses rapidly, and it is expected that it will not be limited to the five miles now under contract, but be pushed across the river to the **Commonwealth location**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 51 [Saturday, November 22, 1879], page 2, column 3

[Menominee Herald.]

–The **new town, Iron Mountain**, is laid out on the northwest quarter of 31, 40, 30, five miles west of **Quinnesec**. **Stephenson & Fleshiem** are the proprietors. It is in the immediate vicinity of

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very promising mines, and has a fair prospect of growth.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 51 [Saturday, November 22, 1879], page 2, column 4

[Menominee Range.]

–The **Cornell mine** looks better with each day's work. It is undoubtedly a big thing.

–The **new town** west of this place, near the **Chapin mine**, is to be called **Iron Mountain City**.

–At the **Chapin mine**, **Michael Schendler** and **Martin Clump** quarreled, and **Martin used his knife**, but not with fatal effect.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 1 [Saturday, December 6, 1879], page 2, column 4

[Menominee Herald.]

–The **Menominee Mining Company** has recently sunk another shaft on the **Chapin**, 200 feet farther west and 100 to 150 feet north of the mine, between sections 30 and 31, which is now down on good ore.

–Stand back, boys, and give the **IRON PORT** room. It will tell you when the **railroad to the Commonwealth** is going to be built. Now then, Colonel.

We said it, and we will. It is going to be built at once. Will that do?

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 1 [Saturday, December 6, 1879], page 3, column 4

THE **winter schedule of the C. & N.W.** goes into effect to-morrow, Sunday. Except that the ore trains are withdrawn, the changes affecting Escanaba are slight. The up passenger is due at 11:29 a.m., the down passenger at 3:30 p.m., the **Quinnesec accommodation** leaves at 7:40 a.m. and arrives at 7:45 p.m. A passenger train is put upon the **M.R.R.R.**, which leaves **Quinnesec** at 9:12 a.m. to connect with the up passenger at the junction, and returns, arriving at **Quinnesec** at 11:54 a.m.; leaves again at 3:12 p.m., connects with the down passenger and arrives at **Quinnesec** at 6:02 p.m. The range is well served on the new table.

THE **C. & N.W. Railway Company** has determined upon pushing westward its **Menominee river branch**, so as to open the iron district in Wisconsin, of which the **Commonwealth location** is the best known, if not the central, [sic] point. The contractor now engaged in preparing the road bed for the five mile extension beyond **Quinnesec**, **Mr. Conro**, has undertaken an additional eleven miles, whhich [sic - which] will take the road to the **Commonwealth**. With that district opened up, and the **Felch mountain lands developed**, the product of the **Menominee range** will not fall far short, if it does not finally exceed, that of the **Marquette range**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 6 [Saturday, January 10, 1880], page 3, column 2

A CAR load of **laborers** passed out the **M.R. railroad**, on Thursday, to work on the **extension beyond Quinnesec**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 9

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[Saturday, January 31, 1880], page 2, columns 3-4

[Menominee Range.]

–A **stage line** will be established soon between **Quinnesec** and **Florence**; will leave Florence every morning and return in the afternoon on arrival of the mail from the south.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 14 [Saturday, March 6, 1880], page 3, column 5

Range Items.

–**Side tracks** are under way, to reach the **Chapin** and **Lake Antoine (Cornell) mines**.

–The **Chapin mine** has received an engine and hoisting machinery, and will soon be ready to ship.

–The **Menominee mining company** will employ 1,500 or more men during the season of navigation, and expects to ship over 400,000 tons of ore.

–**Capt. Williams**, late of **Norway**, is now in charge of the **Ludington mine**, and **Capt. Tobin** of the **Commonwealth**. **Wm. Morrison**, late pit boss at No. 3 pit of the **Vulcan**, has been appointed captain of the **Florence**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 15 [Saturday, March 13, 1880], page 3, column 5

Range Items.

–**COMMUNICATION** by mail with the towns of the Menominee range is very slow and uncertain. A passenger may

leave **Quinnesec** in the morning and spend five hours in **Escanaba**, and be at home again to supper, but it takes two days to get a letter from that place to this, at the best, and longer yet if anything is out of order. The range deserves better treatment at the hands of the postoffice [*sic* – *post office*] department.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 16 [Saturday, March 20, 1880], page 3, column 5

Range Items.

THE **steel rails for the M.R. extension** have begun to arrive, and will go into position as soon as the weather permits. There will be no avoidable delay in getting the extension ready to handle ore.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 17 [Saturday, March 27, 1880], page 3, column 5

Range Items.

THEY have **commenced laying the steel on the extension west of Quinnesec**, but can't do much until the snow and ice goes.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 20 [Saturday, April 17, 1880], page 8, column 2

Range Items.

TRACK laying on the extension beyond **Quinnesec** commenced this week.

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

Range Items.

THE Iron Mountain folks want a postoffice.

THE mail facilities for the towns on the range are simply shameful. There are 10,000 people to be served by that route, and they are now as well served as the people of **Fayette**. **THE** railway company will have to put on a night force, especially night telegraphers, between **Quinnesec** and **Escanaba**, at once. The next thing will be a **double track**. Engines and ore dumps are too thick for comfort or safety on a single track.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 22 [Saturday, May 1, 1880], page 8, column 2

Range Items.

–The stage between Quinnesec and Florence leaves Quinnesec on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and Florence on the alternate days.

–It is reported that a mail car and messenger will be put upon the M.R. railroad on the 1st of July. Three months too late, but better late than never.

–The railway company has laid a mile of track west of Quinnesec. The track is expected to reach the river by the first of June and give transportation facilities to the McKenna, Keel Ridge, Ludington and Chapin mines, each of which will have its side track ready by the time the main track reaches them.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 23 [Saturday, May 8, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–The Keel Ridge mine will probably commence shipping by the 15th.

–Captain Williams, formerly of the **Norway mine**, and more lately of the **Ludington**, is now mining superintendent of the **Lumbermen's mining company**.

–Mr. Swineford visited the **mines west of Quinnesec**, going as far as **Florence**, during the early part of the week. **The Journal** of Saturday will contain his concluding article of the series describing the mines of this range.

–It is not probable that the mines west of the river – the Commonwealth, Florence and others – will be able to market much ore this year. If they get the road by the 15th of September it will be fortunate.

–The mines west of Quinnesec and between there and the river – the Keel Ridge, McKenna, Chapin, Ludington and Lake Antoine – have their sidings well advanced, and will be in shape to ship ore as soon as the main line of railroad is completed.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 24 [Saturday, May 15, 1880], page 8, columns 2-3

Range Items.

–On Thursday morning at 3 o'clock, a cave-in occurred at the Ludington mine, by which two men lost their lives and a third was severely if not fatally injured. The shaft, at the bottom of which the men were

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working, had been timbered down to the rock, and was considered safe, but the water had worked down outside the timbering and so loosened the earth that the timbering was crushed inward and some fifteen or twenty tons of earth precipitated to the bottom, where the men were caught and buried. We have not yet heard the names of the men, but hope to do so before we go to press. Apart from the loss of life, the accident is of little account, and will not delay the shipment of ore from the mine, as the shaft is cleared before now and the timbering repaired and further strengthened.

–In the last number of the **Journal** Mr. **Swineford** describes the **Ludington mine** and an opening on **9, 39, 29**, both the property of the **Lumbermen’s company**. Of the former he says: “At the time of the writer’s visit to the mine, about 6,000 tons of ore had been mined, and, should the openings continue to improve, it is not improbable that a product of 25,000 to 30,000 tons may be reached the present year. Other promising explorations are being made by the company on the southwest quarter of the same section, in what is believed to be a part and parcel of the deposit already referred to. Should this supposition prove correct, it is not improbable that the run of ore extends entirely across the section, from southeast to northwest, on lands wholly owned by, or under lease to, the company.” Of the opening on section 9, after description, he says: “Situated as this tract is, between the **Curry** and **Cyclops**, it is hardly probable that operations now in progress can fail to develop upon it a paying mine.”

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 25 [Saturday, May 22, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–The names of the **men killed at the Ludington mine**, on Thursday of last week, were **Oliver Gardiner, Isaac Winn** and **John Tighe**; the two former Cornishmen and bachelors, the latter an Irishman with a wife and eight children.

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

Range Items.

–A postoffice [*sic* – *post office*] has been established at **Iron Mountain City**, and **R.O. Philbrook** appointed postmaster.

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

Range Items.

–The grading of the railroad has been completed to **Iron City [Iron Mountain]**.

–If half that is told of discoveries north and northwest of **Quinnesec** is true, a line of rails will soon be demanded reaching thence to the **Republic location**. Rumor says that a large body of ore, similar to that of the **Republic mine**, has been discovered about midway between the two places.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 28 [Saturday, June 12, 1880], page 8, column 2

Range Items.

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–**Keel Ridge mine** commenced to ship ore on Friday of last week.

–**The railway company is pushing the track west from Quinnesec at the rate of a quarter of a mile a day.**

--**The Chapin and East Vulcan mines** have commenced shipping ore, and the **Ludington and Lake Antoine [Cornell]** will soon follow.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 31 [Saturday, July 3, 1880], page 8, column 2

Range Items.

–**The Ludington mine** commenced shipping on Thursday, and the **Cornell (Lake Antoine)** will probably commence today.

–**The grading is done to the river**, and the **track** will probably reach there next week. The contractor, Mr. **Conro**, has transferred his force to the Wisconsin side, the bridge will be pushed to completion at once, and the road to **Florence** be opened at the earliest possible day.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 32 [Saturday, July 10, 1880], page 8, column 2

Range Items.

–**The track is laid to the river.**

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 33 [Saturday, July 17, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**A mail car for the M.R. railroad** is in the yard at Escanaba, and we hope to be able, next Saturday, to announce the fact that it has been put upon the road. The range has been neglected by the p.o.d. [post office department] long enough.

–**The next howl that will greet the ears of the Chicago & Northwestern railway company**, from this section, will be for a **railroad from Escanaba to the Felch iron mountain.** –Chronicle. You won't need [to] howl. **The C. & N.W. company will put a track to the Felch mountain as soon as anybody has anything to ship therefrom.**

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 34 [Saturday, July 24, 1880], page 8, column 2

Range Items.

–**Iron Mountain station, four miles west of Quinnesec, is open for business. John Merriman is in temporary charge.**

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 35 [Saturday, July 31, 1880], page 8, columns 2-3

Range Items.

–**The car is ready, and the man. Why, then, does the old order of things continue, and a letter take two days to travel from Hermansville to Spalding, a distance of seven miles?**

–**The bridge over the Menominee is completed. Mr. Conro**, contractor for the grading, is doing what he can, but is short of men, and the **opening of the road to Florence** may be delayed beyond the date contemplated, for that reason.

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–**Highway robbery** is becoming a recognized industry. Near the **Chapin mine**, a few days ago, a little fellow was set upon and horribly beaten, but the enterprise was a failure, as he had given his money to a comrade who escaped and saved it.

–The towns on the range understand the necessity of roads and highways better than our people seem to. **Norway will cut out and work a road to Felch mountain, distance twelve miles, and one to the Quinnesec fall [sic – Falls].** Quinnesec has already roads to both these points, and others are projected.

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

Range Items.

–**Highwaymen, near Iron Mountain City**, on Thursday night last, **attacked George Donaldson** and beat and kicked him in an unsuccessful attempt to rob him. They then attacked **Matt. Murray**, breaking his arm and stealing his watch and pocketbook containing \$50. The robbers are still at large. –Chronicle, 31st.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 38 [Saturday, August 21, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**The track is laid to Spread Eagle lake.**

–The same old, slow – coach, inefficient arrangement for mail transmission. Kick!

–A **Frenchman**, name not given, was **killed on the Stephenson mine side-**

track, on Saturday last. **A loaded car, drawn by a horse, ran over him.**

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 39 [Saturday, August 28, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**Engines and construction train now run to Spread Eagle lake.**

–There are **only 25 or 30 places between the junction and the river where the wayfarer can allay his thirst (unless he is thirsty enough to imbibe water, like a locomotive)**, in view of which fact, careful travelers, Chicago and Milwaukee missionaries and "sich," carry a tickler.

–In making an embankment near **Spread Eagle lake**, for the railway extension, a sink-hole, or peat-bed, was discovered, into which the embankment sunk as fast as it was made. The distance across it was short, however, and firm ground was reached during the fore part of this week.

–**Breitung** is the **most populous township of Menominee county** "by a large majority," having **4,554 inhabitants.** **Menominee township** is next, with 3,947. **Breen, Spalding** and **Stephenson** follow, in the order named, with over 1,000 each. **Cedarville, Ingallston** and **Holmes** bring up the rear with 222, 195 and 158, respectively.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 40 [Saturday, September 4, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

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–Building goes on all along the range. We noticed quite a number of **new houses** at **Frederickton**, as we passed there, and others at **Norway**, **Quinnesec** and **Iron Mountain**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 42 [Saturday, September 18, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**The track is laid to Commonwealth and will reach Florence in about another week.**

–**A passenger train has been put on west of Quinnesec.** It leaves there on the arrival of **No. 4**, runs as far as **Lake Antoine junction** and returns in time for **No. 5**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 43 [Saturday, September 25, 1880], page 8, column 2

Range Items.

–**The railroad track will have reached Florence** by the time this is read, but will not be in a condition for anything except construction work before the 1st proximo [of next month], at which date it is probable that shipments of ore will commence from both **Commonwealth** and **Florence**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 44 [Saturday, October 2, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**A wagon road is under construction from Florence to Keyes lake.**

–**The Commonwealth** will probably commence shipping early in the coming week.

–**No mail agent on the M.R. railroad yet.** Uncle Sam is awfully slow about it.

–**The track of the railway was completed to Florence last Saturday, but is not yet open for business.**

–In an **affray at a camp of railway laborers near Commonwealth**, a man by the name of **Burke** wounded another, whose name we have not heard, very severely, with an ax.

–Freights are pressing, and the road to Florence will be got into working order and business undertaken at the earliest possible day. The work yet to be done is the widening of the clay cut beyond **Spread Eagle lake** and the surfacing of the new track.

–We hear that the **Menominee mining company** is considering the question whether it is economy to pay the Northwestern money enough every year to pay for a railroad. Some members of the company think it is not, and that true economy dictates the building of a road and docks by the company for the transportation and shipment of its own ores.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 45 [Saturday, October 9, 1880], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**The company will put on a passenger train between Quinnesec and Florence next Monday.**

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 2

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[Saturday, December 11, 1880], page 1, column 5

THE winter schedule of the **C. & N.W.** went into effect last Sunday. The **passenger train** north now arrives at 11:25 a.m. and the south passenger at 3:32 p.m. The **Quinnesec freight** leaves at 7:55 a.m. and arrives at 6:50 p.m. The **south freights** leave at 5 a.m., 2 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., and the **north freights** at 12:45 and 6:45 a.m. **Passenger trains** arrive at **Florence** at 12:35 and 6:40 p.m. and leave at 8:23 a.m. and 2:25 p.m.

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

Range Items.

–**Sleighing** superb, and livery horses suffer accordin’.

–**Thirty-two below zero** Tuesday morning, and a man changing his underclothing in an alley, on the lee side of an ash barrel. --Range.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 8 [Saturday January 22, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–The **railway depot at Commonwealth** is nearly ready for occupancy – will be completed by the first of February.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 5 [Saturday, January 29, 1881], page 2, columns 2-3

IRON MOUNTAIN.

This town is improving fast, as we are informed with a very healthy growth. Business is fair and fully as good as could be expected at this dull season of the year. Among the latest additions to the brisk young city, is the hardware store of **Kern Bros.** They are doing as most of the pioneers of this region have had to do, –get on their stock of merchandise, household goods [*sic – goods*], &c., and then build around them. Their building is two storys [*sic – stories*], large and commodious, and well advanced towards completion. Their stock is all new and nicely assorted. Tinsmithing is run in connection with it, under the charge of an experienced workman. Mr. **John Kern** resides over the store with his family. We predict a fine business for the boys. **Andrew Boyington**, one of the pioneers, is still full of business, and as genial and as pleasant as in the olden time. He says that he has done a good business during the past season, and he deserves it. **R.O. Philbrook**, who is agent for Uncle Sam’s mail business, and who keeps a general stock of goods, reports business as being as good as could be expected at this season of the year. He carries a well selected stock of goods. **C.E. Parent**, has the honor of being the first settler, and carries a fine line of general goods. He is quite a fur buyer, and says that he will pay the highest price for furs paid on the Menominee Range. His purchases of furs in one day last winter, he tells us, amounted to \$700. **C.S. Greece**, is a new comer, and is opening the “**Commercial Dining Hall.**” He makes oysters a specialty, and dishes them up in any style. **D.T. Adams** is finishing up a fine building, 24x60, two storys [*sic – stories*] high, for a music hall. He is now engaged in papering and painting it, and says when

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finished, [it] will be one of the finest halls on the entire range. **E. Bannerman** has a fine general store 29x75, and also keeps the “**Iron Mountain House**” adjoining. **Steller & Frederick** are building a first-class drug store, which they will have ready for occupancy in a few days. Those who patronize them can rely upon getting nothing but the best and purest drugs. **Ben Marchand** has a liquid dispensatory, which is doing, so Ben says, a tip-top business. A good livery stable, with sample room attached, is kept by **Branch & Parent**. **W.S. Lang** [sic – Laing] keeps a well supplied [sic – well-supplied] meat and poultry market. **Joseph Borch** keeps a stock of confectionery, nuts and eatables. **Louis Dittmar** is the shoe maker. **Jimmy Morrell** is temporarily engaged as general assistant to the station agent. Before the daisies blossom, he will take his old place on the ore docks at Escanaba. A fine two-story school house has been erected on the hill back of town, which we understand is well attended. The future prospects for Iron Mountain City looks [sic – look] well, and the MINING NEWS augurs for it a prosperous future.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 10 [Saturday, February 5, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**Schaller & Co.**, druggists, of **Quinnesec**, have opened a branch store at **Iron Mountain** with **Doc. Beaudette** as physic compounder.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 11 [Saturday, February 12, 1881], page 8, columns 1-2

Range Items.

–**Johnny Friedrich**, of the firm of **Schaller & Co.**, **Quinnesec**, has opened out with **drugs** “and sich” at **Iron Mountain**.

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 14 [Saturday, March 5, 1881], page 8, column 1

Range Items.

–We have it from quite a reliable source that the **C. & N.W. railway company** is making preparations to **extend their line to the Iron river country, and a branch from there to Ontonagon, and from that place to Houghton**, while the main line will be run to connect with the Northern Pacific. The course has already been mapped out. –Men. Range.

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

Range Items.

–The **Methodists** will have a \$1,500 **church** at the **Chapin location** as soon as it can be built. The mining company gives half the cost. –Condensed from the Range.

–The **C. & N.W. company** will proceed at once to determine the **route of extension north and west of its present terminus at Florence**, and there is every probability that the **iron region north of the Brule** will be reached by rail before the shipping season closes.

–**Mr. Palmer**, with a **surveying party**, went out [on] the branch, on Monday, to **run lines west and north of Florence for**

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the extension of the railroad. Authorities differ as to what the company intends, but to an outsider it appears very plain that the **C. & N.W.** cannot afford to delay the **extension of its lines to Felch mountain, Crystal falls** and the **country west of the Paint and north of the Brule.**

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

Range Items.

–**W.H. Jenkins** will build a **hotel at Iron Mountain.** –Range, 9th.

–**Captain Runkle contracts for the railroad extension to Crystal Falls and has already sixty men at work.**

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

The Iron Port, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 29 [Saturday, June 18, 1881], page 1, column 3

FRANK ROACH, a **brakeman employed on ore train No. 52**, was **severely hurt at the Ludington mine** on Monday. He was standing on the back end of the tender as some cars were being pushed, when the draw-head of the car next [to] the engine broke and the broken end caught and crushed his ankle. He was brought to **his home at Norway** and placed in **Dr. McLeod's** care, who **amputated the leg** on Wednesday.

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

Range Items.

–The **C. & N.W. company will at once extend a branch to the Indiana mine** and the mine commence shipping.

--Four hundred men are employed on the **railroad to Crystal Falls** and it is expected that ore can be shipped over it early in October.

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

The Iron Range, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 25 [Thursday, September 24, 1891], page 1, column 4

TEN YEARS AGO.

ITEMS FROM THE RANGE FILES BRIEFLY CHRONICLED.

September 22, 1881.

Armstrong, Gould and Wicks hve secured an option for a lease on the se ¼ of the ne ¼ of section 27, 40-30, and will explore.

John Morris began work for Andrews, Hitchcock and Bennett the first of the week on south ½ section 26, 40-31.

The force employed at the Cornell has been largely reduced, owing to the somewhat discouraging prospects for the future of this mine.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Iron Mountain mines had shipped up to Sept. 14: Chapin, 91,628 tons; Cornell, 11,806; Keel Ridge, 11,247; Ludington, 731.

Two attorneys, F.C. Chamberlain and Chas. E. Mason, have pitched their tents at Iron Mountain.

The new M.E. church building (First M.E. church) begins to look like a meeting house.

Money order department at the post-office is needed.

Ben Marchand says he has struck it fat with a vein, which, though narrow[,] is some miles in length.

Johnny Cole, the strawberry blonde [sic – blond] who smiles at people when they visit the company's store, and gives free instructions in dancing when the weather is warm enough to admit of such lessons taking place out of doors, has returned and smiles as of yore.

A.F. Wright has sold thirty building lots since spring on the addition south of the railroad track in Quinnesec. Capt. Fitzsimmons, Capt. Travers and E.M. Corning each have a house in course of erection.

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

W.H. JENKINS will, about the first of next week, open his fine **new three-story hotel** at Iron Mountain. It is a fine building, well finished and furnished, and reflects great credit on the enterprise of its worthy proprietor. Mr. Jenkins has had experience in the hotel business, and the traveling public may rest assured that they will find there one of the best kept houses in the country. **THE MINING NEWS** congratulates the Iron Mountaineers that

they now have one of the best public houses on the range.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 6 [Saturday, February 4, 1882], page 3, column 3

JENKIN'S [sic] **HOTEL** at Iron Mountain, has got a well earned [sic – well-earned] reputation all over the country. It is well arranged, neat, and excellently furnished. No wonder it is becoming such a favorite with traveling men. Mr. Jenkins and his estimable wife, withal, just know how to "keep a hotel," too.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 27 [Saturday, July 1, 1882], page 1, column 5

H.S. SWIFT, the proprietor of the **Quinnesec Reporter**[,] has purchased the office of the **Menominee Range** and will remove it to **Iron Mountain**. The energetic village is a fine point for a newspaper and the citizens will have as good a paper as the Reporter, if not better.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 2 [Saturday, January 6, 1883], page 1, column 5

AT a **25 mile walking match** at **Quinnesec**, Wednesday evening, between **Henry Blackwood** and **Dunham**, of **Iron Mountain**, considerable money changed hands and there was quite an excitement. The walk was for \$25. On the 24th mile Blackwood fell down in a faint, but Dunham continued the walk to the end, and was declared the winner. Blackwood was at first thought to be dead, but restoratives brought him back to consciousness. The citizens of

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Quinnesec were the winners and those of Iron Mountain the losers in the betting.

History of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Containing a Full Account of Its Early Settlement; Its Growth, Development and Resources; An Extended Description of Its Iron and Copper Mines: Also Accurate Sketches of the Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages, Their Improvements, Industries, Manufactories; Biographical Sketches, Portraits of Prominent Men and Early Settlers; Views of County Seats, Etc., Chicago, Illinois: The Western Historical Company, A.T. Andreas, Proprietor, 1883, pages 499

IRON MOUNTAIN.

The laying out and building of the town of Iron Mountain followed the discovery and development of the far famed **Chapin Mine**. The site nestles at the foot of surrounding hills that attain quite an elevation. The immediate vicinity presents some beautiful scenery, and abounds in rich deposits of valuable iron ore.

In the summer of 1880, mining operations were commenced at the **Chapin Mine**, yet little was done until the season opened in 1881, when the value of the deposit was fully established, and the town sprang up as if the ground had been touched by a magic wand.

Its resources are found in its great mineral wealth, and the complement of business seen here is the same that is found in many little mining towns of the Menominee Range.

It has an estimated population of 4,000, and the monthly disbursements of the several mines amount to \$70,000. The **Swedish Lutheran and Methodist Episcopal Churches** have just effected

organizations here, and erected neat frame church buildings. Iron Mountain is reached by the **Menominee River Railroad**, which furnishes shipping facilities for its mines to **Escanaba** and an outlet to all points.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 5 [Saturday, January 27, 1883], page 1, column 5

AN **extensive conflagration** occurred at Iron Mountain Sunday night last, commencing at about ten o'clock. The fire began in the upper story of **Oliver & Penglase's** saloon building, occupied by **Mrs. Hartman**, a widow lady, as a boarding house, and was caused by the fall and explosion of a lamp. Despite all efforts against it, the flames soon enveloped the building, and spread to the adjoining places, which were **Laing Bros.** meat market, **Wm. Andrew's** clothing store, **William Parent's** saloon, and the confectionery store owned by an old man commonly known as "**The Old Dutchman**," and they were all destroyed together with their contents. An Indian by the name of **Steve Nichols** was severely injured while engaged in fighting the fire and was carried from the scene in an insensible condition, with his face scorched and his eyesight seriously injured. The loss is estimated at \$10,000. Andrew's loss is covered by \$2,000 insurance, Parent's by \$1000 and Laing Bros'. by \$700. Other property destroyed was uninsured. Oliver & Penglase will commence the erection of a three-story brick building at once, and it is altogether probable that all will rebuild. It was expected that **Charley Ross's** saloon, **Philbrooks' [sic – Philbrook's]** and Parent's stores, and **Jenkins' hotel**, situated in the same block, would also be destroyed, and all were speedily emptied of their contents, with the exception of the store of

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Philbrooks, the proprietor locking the door and preferring to trust his stock to the mercy of fire rather than to that of thieves. Much of **C.M. Parent's** stock was stolen, while Ross misses ten boxes of cigars and a keg of beer.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 16 [Saturday, April 14, 1883], page 1, column 5

A Monster Grave.

EIGHT MINERS BURIED ALIVE IN THE CAVING IN OF THE KEEL RIDGE MINE.

SIX WIDOWS AND THIRTEEN ORPHANS.

The most terrible calamity that has visited the Menominee Range occurred a little after 10'clock Tuesday afternoon last, the Keel Ridge iron mine, owned and operated by the **Emmett Mining Company**, caving in and burying alive eight miners, six of whom were married and had in all thirteen children. As follows:

William Henderson, wife and four children.

William Pollard, wife and four children.

John Morrish, wife and one child.

William Jeffery.

Thomas James, wife and child.

Alexander Helman.

Patrick Eagan, wife, [sic]

Richard Williams, wife and three children.

The mine was considered worked out and the eight men, with one more named

Edward Wicks, were engaged about the mouth of the shaft on the surface taking out the pumps, pipes, landers, etc., preparatory to abandoning it, when, without warning of any kind, the whole face of ground covering the underground workings fell in engulfing them and the boiler house near by, and forming a huge sink hole sixty feet deep, one hundred wide, and one hundred and fifty in length. A re-echoing crash that shook the settlement, a cloud of dust that for an instant obscured the sun, and all was over. The whole village frantic with apprehension were [sic – was] out in a twinkling and there was an awful cry, "The mine! The mine! – it has fallen in!" In a moment the brink of the yawning abyss was lined with terror-stricken men, women, and children, whose white, anxious faces, peering into the depths, told of awful fear and agony. Of the nine only one struggling victim could be seen, striving to free himself from the weight of earth and rock, which had broken one of his legs and ribs. He was Ed. Wicks. Somehow he had been thrown up from the immense mass, and men were lowered down to him by ropes and carried him up in their arms, and he was laid down crushed and bleeding, but thankful. Not a vestige of his eight companions was discernable anywhere, and even the boiler house with its great boilers was nowhere visible, and only a few splinters and a small get of steam issuing from the *debris* told it was there.

The alarm spread quickly and within an hour or two there were nearly a thousand people at the scene of the disaster, among them the entire force of miners of the **Chapin**, the **Menominee Mining company** ordering the suspension of work at this mine in order its men might assist its ill-fated neighbor. The work of erecting derricks and setting up hoisting machinery brought from the Chapin was speedily commenced. It is calculated that a month

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

or more will be consumed hoisting the mass before the first body will be uncovered, even allowing that the remains lie but midway in the great heap and not nearer the bottom as may be the case. There is practically nothing on which to base a calculation as to how deep the bodies lie buried.

When visited by a reporter of the NEWS Thursday, the huge grave presented a distracting sight. The widows and orphans stood about weeping and wailing for either dead pitifully, while two hundred men were solemnly, even reverently, engaged in the necessarily slow work of resurrection. The wife of one of the victims, **Mrs. Thomas James**, had become crazed at her loss compelling her friends to provide for her safe keeping, while three other of the widows were confined to the house being about to become mothers. All the families are left in almost destitute circumstances, and suffering for the wants of life will occur soon in their midst unless arrested by the hand of charity.

The **Keel Ridge mine** was discovered in 1879 by **John McKenna**, and was developed by him in company with **John O'Callaghan**, at which time it was known as the "**McKenna Mine**." In 1880 it was purchased by **Wm. McCartney** for a consideration of \$35,000, who in the next year disposed of it to the Emmett company, its present owner, for \$75,000, who changed its name to the Keel Ridge. It comprises the south half of section 32, town 40, range 30. It was worked underground at a depth of nearly 300 feet. In 1880 the mine produced 11,445 gross tons, in 1881 19,011 and in 1882 28,000. **J.T. Jones** is agent, and **John Wicks** captain.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III,

Number 16 [Saturday, April 14, 1883], page 1, column 6

AS WE go to press we learn that the prospect of being able to **recover the bodies in the Keel Ridge mine** has become almost hopeless owing to the heavy rains occurring [*sic – occurring*] since the disaster, which have washed in tons upon tons more earth and rendered the work of raising it almost impracticable. It is now thought the remains can not be resurrected in two months. In view of this state of affairs the company have submitted a proposition to the widows of the victims offering them \$4,000 each if they will consent to let the dead remain in the almost unfathomable depths, and release it from its hopeless search. The proposition meets with the endorsement of all acquainted with the terrible situation and will no doubt be accepted by the widows.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 17 [Saturday, April 21, 1883], page 1, column 4

THE **work of searching for bodies at the Keel Ridge mine** is carried on vigorously by a large force of men. None have yet been recovered. It was reported on yesterday that a coat was found in the *debris* but investigation proved the rumor false. The search is carried on under great difficulties arising from the spring thaw and rains, and it is altogether probable that many days will yet pass away before the remains of any of the victims are recovered.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 18 [Saturday, April 28, 1883], page 1, column 4

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

IT is understood that Range poets will not attempt to compose anything about the **Keel Ridge disaster**, owing to the difficulty of finding words to rhyme with that name. A hint to mine owners that is equal to a nudge, certainly.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 18 [Saturday, April 28, 1883], page 1, column 5

THE Menominee Herald learns that the Emmet [*sic – Emmett*] folks will cause a monument to be raised to the **Keel Ridge** dead. With all due respect to the brave dead who lie buried in that huge grave, the NEWS suggests that the company give the money that the monumet [*sic – monument*] might cost to the needy widows and orphans. We believe in having as much respect for the living as for the dead.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 18 [Saturday, April 28, 1883], page 4, column 5

As anticipated by the NEWS the search for the victims of the **Keel Ridge disaster** proved futile, and after ten days and nights was abandoned. It would have been much better in the beginning to have given the money thus uselessly spent in the hopeless task of resurrection to the needy families of the dead, but mistakes will be made by the best of communities. There is the consolation for the friends of the departed, however, that ghouls can not rob the grave.

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

THE monument which it is intended to erect over the unfortunate victims at **Keel Ridge**, will probably be of red granite and cost in the neighborhood of \$1,000. Several designs have already been subjected to the management, but no final choice has yet been made.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 22 [Saturday, May 26, 1883], page 1, column 4

THE total of the local subscription to the **Keel Ridge relief fund** now foots up to nearly \$750. The amount should be swelled to \$1,000 at least. The last can be found at the Menominee Mining Company's store. – Range.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 31 [Saturday, August 4, 1883], page 1, column 6

Charles L. Anderson, a popular and successful young business man [*sic – businessman*] of **Norway** has about completed **arrangements to open a bank at Iron Mountain**. All that is lacking is the safe and it is one the road.

Iron Mountain will follow in the foot steps [*sic – footsteps*] of enterprising Florence and organize a **sporting club house at Spread Eagle**. The Eagle is a beautiful neck o'lakes and it is bound to become renowned as a pleasure resort.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 44 [Saturday, November 3, 1883], page 1, column 4

ALLEGED MURDER.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The Mysterious Death of a Skandinavian Causing Considerable Excitement Among Certain Classes at Iron Mountain.

On Sunday morning last the passenger train bound south from Florence shoved the dead body of a man from the truck, at a point near the Quinnesec cemetery. On investigation it was found that the body had been mangled by an earlier train. The remains were identified as those of a young Swede miner named **John Peterson**, who had been working at the Chapin. A coroners' [sic – coroner's] inquest was held and a verdict of accidental death was rendered. When the remains were being prepared for burial, it is alleged that marks indicating foul play were discovered. It is even claimed that the man was shot through the head, his head then severed from his body with a knife and the body placed on the track to conceal the crime. Peterson attended a funeral on Saturday and then proceeded to **Dominick Walsh's bagnio**. It is said he had considerable money. Walsh claims the man became grossly intoxicated and that he expelled him from his place. This was the last seen of him. A man was arrested on suspicion, but released. The general opinion is that Peterson was murdered. His friends are excited to a point of lynching and it would go hard with the murderer, were he caught. A thorough investigation is being conducted.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 2 [Saturday, November 14, 1885], page 5, column 4

COUNTY AND VICINITY.

A good many deer hunters near Iron Mountain have been hunting with dogs. It has been a dear job for some of them too.

The Iron Mountain fire company will give a grand ball and supper on New Year's evening.

A branch of the Michigan teachers' reading circle has been formed at Iron Mountain.

Messrs. Lieberthal & Co., of Iron Mountain, have patented a sample box which will prove very useful to the retail dry goods trade.

The editor of the **Menominee Range** is at a loss to find some mechanical devise whereby the whoops and yells of all the children living within a radius of five miles of the Range office could be concentrated into power sufficient to run a wood sawing machine, which the children seemed to take delight in watching. It is well known that there is a vast amount of power in the yell of a small boy, and if the Range man can succeed in his endeavor to utilize this heretofore wasted force, he will win the plaudits of an admiring public.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 4 [Saturday, November 28, 1885], page 5, column 5

The new opera house at Iron Mountain can be bought at a very reasonable price. The **Wisconsin [Land] and Lumber Co.** will take one-half for their claim. Apply to **Mr. Ebert**, superintendent, for further information.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 6 [Saturday, December 12, 1885], page 5, column 3

One **W.A. Hutchinson** opened a stock of boycotted goods in **Iron Mountain** last Wednesday, but when The Knights of Labor got on to his racket his sale did not last long. The Knights have something to say in this country, and are growing in strength.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 6 [Saturday, December 12, 1885], page 5, column 4

Circuit Court.

A case in the circuit court that has attracted considerable attention this week is that of the **negro Polk**, of **Norway**, who was **charged with assault with intent to murder Steve Nicholas of Iron Mountain**, at the latter's house on the night of Sept. 25th. **Kruse & Flannigan** appeared for the defense, **W.H. Phillips** for the people. From the testimony it appears that Polk with two colored women had gone to Nicholas' house on the day mentioned. Polk went out and got a pail of beer, and Nicholas did likewise. Then they had a high old time. After a while Polk went and laid down on Nicholas' bed who ordered him to get up and leave the house. Hot words followed, and Nicholas threatened Polk with his gun on which a bayonet was fixed. Then they had a tussle, and Polk gave Nicholas a cut on the side of his neck with a razor which nearly ended his life. A hideous scar remains where the cut was made, and Nicholas has nearly lost the use of one arm through the severing of a large chord in his neck. The jury was out all of Wednesday night and in the morning brought in a

verdict of "assault with intent to do great bodily injury, less than murder," the penalty for which is from two to ten years in the penitentiary. Polk is a negro who possesses more than the ordinary intelligence of his race. He has been a barber at Norway for a number of years, and seems to have been pretty well liked. Nicholas is a carpenter, although his appearance savors more of an "Indian medicine man." He served all through the late war as scout in the **First Wisconsin Cavalry**, and was a brave soldier.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 7 [Saturday, December 19, 1885], page 8, column 3

Circuit Court.

On Thursday circuit court adjourned for the last term of the year 1885. This was an extraordinary term in the number and importance of the criminal cases tried. The two principal cases were those of **The People vs. Polk**, and **The People vs. John Mares**, both cases being from **Iron Mountain**. As stated last week Polk was convicted of assault, and on Wednesday afternoon was sentenced to hard labor in State's prison for one year, the lightest sentence that could possibly be imposed. **Judge Grant** said that he had several reasons for being so lenient. The jury had recommended Polk to the mercy of the court, and although Judge Grant did not so intimate, yet it is generally known that the jury compromised on the verdict. Then, again, Judge Grant said that in all his legal experience he had never seen such interest manifested and faithful persistent efforts in behalf of a client, as shown by **Attorneys Flannigan & Cook** in behalf of Polk. They tried hard for a new trial on the grounds that

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

The People did not procure the women witnesses in time so that the defense could have the benefit of the cross examination. The prosecuting attorney said the witnesses were brought here by an officer before the defense had closed their case, and that was the proper time to ask for their testimony. The judge denied the motion, and if the case is not carried to the supreme court Polk will have to serve out the sentence.

* * *

The trial of **John Mares** on the charge of killing **Mike Poncho** at the **Ludington** location, **Iron Mountain**, on the 19th of October occupied from Monday afternoon until Wednesday evening. The arguments of the counsel on both sides lasted seven hours. **Fabian Trudell** and **H.O. Fairchild** appeared for the defense. The particulars are about as follows: On the date above named there was a wedding among the **Bohemian people**, where they live at **Iron Mountain**, and there was considerable drinking and dancing going on all afternoon until sundown. **John Mares** boarded at **Votilla's** which is about 150 feet from the house where the wedding festivities were held. About midway between these two places is **Vesselnich's** house. Mares went home to supper about sundown or shortly after five o'clock, accompanied by **Poncho** and a young fellow named **Andrew Happy**. This **Happy** is a full brother to **Vesselnich**, but several years ago he went to work in **Chicago**, and his employer did not like to pronounce his right name, but called him "Happy." The trio had supper together, and some time before seven o'clock started to return to the dance, **Happy** being about 15 feet ahead. When **Happy** reached **Vesselnich's** house he heard loud talking inside. He went in and found his brother **Mike** trying to induce a drunken boarder to go to bed. In from five to ten minutes **Mares** came in. A large bread-knife [*sic* –

bread knife] had been left lying on the table at supper time, and when next seen was in **Mares** hand and he was trying to stick the knife into the wall. **Mrs. Vesselnich** hearing that there was a disturbance at her house went home from the dance and on the way found **Mike Poncho** lying on his face and groaning. When she got home **John Mares** had the knife in his hand, and both knife and hand were bloody. This he explains by saying that when he struck the way his hand slipped over the handle and on the blade cutting a gash. The scar is still visible. **Mrs. V.** asked for the knife, and he gave it to her. The knife was produced in court as evidence.

The murdered man was stabbed in the left thigh, the wound being about one inch in width, and four inches deep, severing the femoral artery.

* * *

There was nothing but circumstantial evidence against the prisoner still the prosecuting attorney made out a pretty strong case. They [*sic* – *The*] jury after a few minutes absence returned with a verdict of "not guilty." They reached this unanimous conclusion on the first formal ballot. After the prisoner was discharged the judge handed him a letter written by a priest at the instance of his parents in the old country, asking for the particulars of the crime.

* * *

According to all accounts these foreigners are a reckless, careless set of people. It is said that they had the murdered man laid out with one eye partly closed, the other eye wide open, and a skull cap on one side of his head, so that he would look like a dandy. The dance went on after the man was killed just as though nothing had happened.

Menominee Democrat, *Menominee*,
Menominee County, Michigan, Volume

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

1, Number 9 [Saturday, January 2, 1886], page 5, column 3

Wages have advanced at the Chapin mine.

Frank Kieler fell off the scaffolding at the **Chapin saw mill, Iron Mountain**, a distance of 12 feet, last Monday, breaking his leg above the ankle.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 10 [Saturday, January 9, 1886], page 5, column 5

Editorial Observations Around the County.

IRON MOUNTAIN.

Iron Mountain is only about four years old, but in that short time has acquired a population of over 2,000, and is bound to become a place of considerable importance. Its business men [*sic businessmen*] are enterprising, progressive and fully alive to the interests of the place. Among the foremost merchants stand **D. & J. E. Bergeron**[,] who carry about a \$12,000 stock of **groceries**, etc. They also have a **store at Norway** and enjoy a good trade at both towns.

McLaughlin & Devere are doing a good business in the **real estate and insurance** line. **Hugh McLaughlin**, the head of the firm, has secured an option on the **Cornell mine**, and is developing the hidden riches recently discovered there. He is largely identified with the mining interests of this county, and is well and favorably known in the u.p. We predict that Mr. McLaughlin will be the next supervisor from that township. **Harry G. Devere**, his partner, is a thorough gentleman of the old school, polished in his manners, and engaging in conversation.

He holds the office of Justice of the Peace, and could undoubtedly be elected to any office he desired in the township. Handsome **Robert Barclay** is dispensing smiles and “smiles” to thirsty cutsomers [*sic – customers*] at the **Jenkins’ House sample rooms**. Rob. Is a favorite at Iron Mountain, and no wonder, for he is a genial fellow.

The **cigar manufacturing business** is well represented by **C.E. Berry** and **M. Carey**, both fine fellows, and respected members of the noble K. of L.

Among the expounders of the law we found **Fabian Trudell** poring over Blackstone with an assiduity that will some day place him on the pinnacle of fame. We don’t know where that is, but he deserves it anyhow. **W.H. Hurley** is a very successful pleader, a versatile writer and a good fellow generally. We are indebted to him for his efforts in getting us a good list of subscribers. We shall probably visit Iron Mountain again before long, and have more to say about it next time.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 14 [Saturday, February 6, 1886], page 5, column 5

IRON MOUNTAIN.

Two cases of diphtheria, one fatal, have been reported at the Chapin location, and the health officer has ordered the public school at the mine and Sunday schools discontinued for the present.

Election matters are being talked up, and the aspiring candidates are coming to the front.

There were nine alarms of fire during the year of 1885. Total loss less than \$1,000. This good showing is attributed to

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the efficient fire company which it is claimed can get ready for business in less than three business [sic – minutes].

The ladies of the **Presbyterian church** gave a “blue tea” on Thursday evening. A sure cure for the “blues,” to those afflicted with that complaint.

The new Presbyterian church is completed, and services will be held therein to-morrow [sic – tomorrow].

Iron Mountain should have the electric light, and discard the tallow dip and smoky oil lamps.

The **knights of labor [sic – Knights of Labor]** are making great preparations for their **grand ball** on the 22nd of this month.

S.P. Saxton, of **Waucedah**, has gone to New Orleans and other places in the sunny south.

It has been persistently rumored the past three weeks, [sic] that the **Menominee Mining Company** contemplated selling out the **Chapin mine** to the **Carnegie Iron Works**, of Pennsylvania. We have it from the very best authority that no such action is contemplated. A portion of the stock may be sold – very likely will be – but there will be no change in the management. The writer has learned the hope universally expressed that the present company would retain control of this property, and the above news will be received with general satisfaction. When the possibility presented itself that the affairs of this mine might be placed under the control of a different set of men, expressions were heard on all sides showing the kindly feeling of the community towards the men who have been identified with the welfare of this bonanza mine of the range from the organization of the company to the present time. – Menominee Range.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 16 [Saturday, February 20, 1886], page 5, column 3

COUNTY AND VICINITY.

What is going on round about us.

Democrat Reporters gather Spicy Fragments on Every Hand.

IRON MOUNTAIN.

This thriving city expects a boom with a big B in a few weeks, and the hotels and people in general are looking forward to it with a lively interest. In anticipation of the rush, the **Jenkins House will be enlarged**, and made ready for the increase. The principal cause for these expectations is the news that the **Milwaukee & Northern R’y will be immediately extended to Iron Mountain from Pike**, a distance of about 25 miles, the contract having been let last week in Milwaukee to **Dawson & Symes**. Railroad officials have been in Iron Mountain this week securing the right of way, and locating the **site for a new depot**.

John Morrison has bought the opera house roller rink, and will fit it up for the variety show business with beer garden attachment. Burnt cork minstrels with female song and dance artists will comprise the attractions, and there seems to be plenty of assurance that it will be a success. Nothing slow about Iron Mountain.

Harry Brown, Mell Dunning, Howard Brooks and the writer enjoyed a **sleigh-ride** on Wednesday **to the Hydraulic Works**, and surveyed the wonderful machinery in operation. Inside the works the din is so deafening that it is almost impossible to carry on conversation, and

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the men were all engaged in setting up one of the large compressors, so that a visitor could only walk around and admire the massive machinery. There are six compressors at the works but only four were being used. The compressed air is carried through a pipe about two feet in diameter, a distance of nearly three miles to the Chapin and Ludington mines, where it is utilized for motive power. One noticeable feature about this compressing air is the evolution of heat. For a distance of a quarter of a mile the hot air in the pipe had melted all the snow in the near vicinity, and we were told that at the point of application this air is exceedingly frigid as to freeze a person's finger to the bone in on [sic – an] instant if placed in the current. It is now nearly three years since the works were built, and the cost so far has been nearly a half million of dollars. Before returning we climbed up to the verge of the falls but did not find them awe-inspiring to any great extent, although it must be a picturesque and beautiful sight in the spring when the waters of the Menominee are at their greatest height. The only incident that bid fair to interrupt the serenity of the trip was when Brown ventured to remark that he supposed the water fell up hill. Dunning said it was fall-acy to think of such a thing, but Mell showed deep contrition of spirit for perpetrating such a "hoke," [sic – "joke,"] and thus escaped the righteous indignation of a long suffering public.

Menominee Democrat, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 20 [Saturday, March 20, 1886], page 5, column 4

GLEANINGS.

Contracts have been made for teams and supplies, and work has begun

cutting out the right of way for the Milwaukee & Northern into Iron Mountain.

The Knights of Labor of Iron Mountain have purchased the corner lot opposite the Presbyterian Church, and will erect at once a fine hall for their own use. The building will be 32x82, 26 foot posts, store room below and hall above, and will cost about \$2,000. The hall will be rented to the public when not needed by the society. It is well known that one of the things the Knights of Labor hope to establish in the near future is that eight hours labor shall constitute a day's work, and in putting up their building it is eminently proper that they should practice what they preach. This they propose to do, and the man who has charge of the job will have to stipulate that he will require only eight hours' labor for a day's work. Furthermore the work will all be done by the day and not on contract, and Knights will of course have the preference when the workmen are engaged. – Menominee Range.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 39 [Saturday, September 24, 1887], page 5, column 4

Should Have Waited Six Months.

The following marriage announcement was published in this week's issue of the Iron Mountain Range: "Married, on the 9th inst. [of this month], by Rev. H.M. Tyndall, **Thomas Carter**, of Florence, and **Mary Jane Benney**, of Iron Mountain."

The couple returned to Florence on Thursday and are living over **Brook's saloon**, on **Central Avenue**. Thomas Carter, it will be remembered, was deserted by his wife several months ago. He subsequently began an action for divorce

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[sic – divorce] on the ground of desertion, but the papers were filed too late for the case to be tried at the fall term of the Circuit Court. The divorce [sic – divorce] cannot now be legally obtained until next March. Mr. Carter, by marrying again before securing a lawful separation from his first wife, has committed a very serious offense and has laid himself amenable to the law. He is said to be a hard-working, industrious man, an employe [sic – employee] at the Florence mine.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 42 [Saturday, October 15, 1887], page 5, column 4

UNHAPPY DEPOSITORS.

FAILURE OF THE BANK AT IRON MOUNTAIN.

J.L. Edwards, Proprietor of the Merchants and Miners' Bank Makes An Assignment – A Large Number of Poor People Among the Depositors – A National Bank Organized – A Large Budget of Interesting Social and Personal Gossip.

Great excitement existed at Iron Mountain and other towns on the range this week over the failure of the **Merchants' and Miners' Bank** of the former place. The collapse of the concern was sudden and altogether unexpected, and hundreds of depositors, the majority of whom are poor people, will probably lose nearly all of their

money. The Range estimates the liabilities of the defunct institution at from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and says that **J.L. Edwards**, the proprietor, owns and has an interest in several tracts of valuable mineral lands and will probably be able to pay his debts dollar for dollar. It is reported, however, that the liabilities will aggregate fully \$35,000. If this proves to be the case, it is extremely unlikely that the unfortunate depositors will realize more than from 25 to 50 cents on the dollar. At last accounts Edwards was said to be in Chicago, where he went to endeavor to raise money on his lands in order to meet his obligations. **Richard White**, who runs butcher shops in this city and at Iron Mountain, was among the heaviest losers. He is said to have lost \$2,600. The day before the failure Mr. White purchased a draft for \$1,400 on a Chicago bank, and the money was not forwarded. **Rundle Brothers**, the well-known Iron Mountain hardware dealers, also lost a considerable sum. The bank was originally started at Norway by **Chas. L. Anderson**, who afterwards moved it to Iron Mountain, and a year or two ago sold out to Edwards. The Green Bay Advocate says that a suspicion is expressed that the latter has skipped to Canada with the available funds. The assignment was made to **J.S. Shafer**.

Iron Mountain, like many other towns, has had enough of irresponsible private banking institutions, and hereafter the people of that enterprising burg will do business only with national banks. The **First National Bank of Iron Mountain** was organized last Monday evening, with the following incorporators: **A.F. Wright**, Quinnesec; **John Perkins**, **F. Copeland**, **D.F. Mullens**, **B.W. Jones**, **E.S. Roberts**, Vulcan; **John R. Wood**, Appleton, Wis.; **Oliver Evans**, **A.D. Moore**, **H. McLaughlin**, **Wm. Oliver**, **W.S. Laing**, **R.P. Tuten**, **E.P. Foster**, **J.T. Jones**, **G.T.**

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Corning, E.J. Ingram, C.E. Parent, H.E. Pearce, Iron Mountain; J.B. Maas, Samuel Mitchell, Edward Lobb, Negaunee. Mr. Evans is a son-in-law of H.D. Fisher, of this city, and the other gentlemen are well and favorably known in Florence. The board of directors is composed of John R. Wood, A.F. Wright, H.E. Pearce, Oliver Evans, John Perkins, Wm. Oliver, W.S. Laing, C.E. Parent and Samuel Mitchell. The officers of the new bank are as follows: John R. Wood, president; A.F. Wright, vice-president; H.E. Pearce, cashier; Oliver Evans, assistant cashier. The capital stock is \$50,000. The bank will probably be ready for business by the first of November. A national bank is needed in Florence, but until one is organized, many of the local business men [*sic- businessmen*] will most likely patronize the new concern at Iron Mountain.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 44 [Saturday, October 29, 1887], page 5, column 2

WAS NOT EXAGGERATED.

The Mining News' Statement Verified – The Typhoid Epidemic.

A terrible epidemic of typhoid fever, however, is raging at Iron Mountain. Deaths have been unfortunately numerous, and the doctors are said to be very much discouraged. The physicians scout the theory advanced by some that the disease is cholera brought by Italian laborers. Two hundred cases were reported on Tuesday. –NEWS.

Iron Mountain is not so far away from Florence that the editors of that paper could not get the exact facts in regard to the

typhoid fever epidemic here and not be led into making such an exaggerated statement as the above. The first case of typhoid fever was reported early in August, and it may be that since that time there has been 200 cases all told, but that figure is probably too high. Out of all the cases there have been 14 deaths, and at the present time there are not over 75 cases, and most of them convalescing. The physicians are not discouraged, there is no panic nor doubt as to what the disease is. – Range.

One of the editors of the MINING NEWS visited Iron Mountain on Wednesday, and made several inquiries regarding the alleged typhoid epidemic. The result showed that while many exaggerated reports have been telegraphed all over the country, the statement published in the MINING NEWS, and to which the Range takes exception to, was in the main correct. The fact, as is attested to by the editor of the Range himself, that there have been 200 cases of typhoid fever in a town of 5,000 or 6,000 inhabitants, within a period of three months, can be truthfully called a "terrible epidemic." "Deaths have been unfortunately numerous," as is proven by the fact that one case in every fourteen has resulted fatally. The Range averment that there is no doubt as to the nature of the disease is contradicted by one of the leading citizens of Iron Mountain, who, in conversation with the editor of this journal, declared his belief that it was a sort of cholera, and not typhoid fever. The cause of the deplorable condition of affairs which has existed in that city during the past three months, is attributed to the inefficiency of the health authorities, who allowed the lower portion of the town to become exceedingly filthy during the past summer. The filth accumulations on the surface of the ground were absorbed by the sand, and contamination of the drinking water wells

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resulted. The people will elect new village officers on the 7th of November, and a new board of health is to be appointed. Happily the worst of the epidemic is now over, and no more deaths are expected to occur.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 44 [Saturday, October 29, 1887], page 5, column 3

Samuel Lawrence and Miss **Mary E. Mehl**, both of Iron Mountain[,], were married by **Justice Coleman**, in this city, on Monday. This is the first Michigan couple who have been married in Florence since the new license law went into effect in that state, and, as was predicted by the MINING NEWS two weeks ago, many more Wolverine lovers will probably hie themselves to this city to have the nuptial knot tied, rather than submit to the delay incident to the procurement of a license in their own state.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 44 [Saturday, October 29, 1887], page 5, column 3

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The NEW **National Bank at Iron Mountain** will be ready for business on Tuesday next.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 47 [Saturday, November 19, 1887], page 5, column 2

A MIXED MARRIAGE.

A Young White Man Weds An Indian Maiden in Florence.

An event of unusual character occurred in Justice Huff's office this week, a white man and an full blooded Indian maiden having been united in the holy bonds of matrimony by the urbane and accommodating justice. The ceremony took place at 1:30 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. The happy couple, for such they indeed were, if their actions toward one another can be taken as a criterion, were **Joseph Baker**, a young Frenchman, and "**Checota**," the comely daughter of "**Egonestic**," a well-known **Badwater Indian**, and "**Paltier**," his wife. The bride was born at Badwater Indian village, on the Menominee River, near Spread Eagle Lake, some seventeen or eighteen summers ago. She cannot speak a word of English but understands the French language perfectly. Mr. Baker was born at Green Bay and is 23 years of age. He is a miner and is employed in one of the mines at Iron Mountain. The young couple first met with each other last summer and the acquaintance soon ripened into love. The ceremony was witnessed by **Jerome Decota**, of Badwater, and **John M. Saxton**, of this city. The former is a son of **Decota**, a veteran trapper who is known throughout the entire northern country. "Old Decota," as he is always called, is supposed to be the oldest person living in the United States. He is 120 years of age and is said to be hale and vigorous as most men of 60 years. The veteran trapper lives at White Rapids on the Menominee River. Mr. Baker and his dusky bride will make their home at Iron Mountain. Asked by a MINING NEWS reporter as to whether the couple would be obliged to be remarried according to the Indian custom, an old Badwater Indian replied: "No, that is not necessary. An

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Injun in Injun fashion, but when a white man marries a squaw the marriage ceremony must be according to the white man's fashion."

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 6 [Saturday, February 4, 1888], page 5, column 3

D.A. GRAHAM has closed up the branch **harness shop** which he recently opened in **Florence**, and will hereafter devote himself entirely to his business at **Iron Mountain**, where he will fill all orders sent to him.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 28 [Saturday, July 7, 1888], page 8, column 1

The Old Jenkins House Burned.

Considerable excitement was occasioned in Florence Thursday morning over a rumor that two or three blocks in the business portion of Iron Mountain had been destroyed by fire. Happily, the report proved to have been unfounded. A fire, however, was discovered in the **Metropolitan Hotel**, formerly the **Jenkins House**, at 3 o'clock Thursday morning, but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to save the building. The structure had recently been moved in sections to its late site, and two of the sections had not been joined, leaving a space of about six inches at the top. It is thought a rocket fell in there and started the fire. **John R. Wood** had sold the property to **P. Ouderkirk**, to be transferred as soon as the building was in shape for occupancy. Mr. Wood's loss is \$7,000, and Mr.

Ouderkirk's \$2,000, the latter being on furniture. No insurance.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 30 [Saturday, July 21, 1888], page 5, column 4

John Trenerry and Miss **Minnie Davis**, a bashful young couple from **Iron Mountain**, were made life long happy by **Rev. J.H. Fleming** on Wednesday noon. The marriage ceremony was performed at the **Presbyterian**

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The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 35 [Saturday, August 25, 1888], page 5, column 2

A GOOD GAME.

Florence and Iron Mountain Business Men Play Base Ball.

A very effective game of base ball [*sic – baseball*] was played on the home grounds, last Tuesday afternoon, between teams composed of Florence and Iron Mountain business men [*sic – businessmen*]. The Michigan men won the game, the score being 15 to 9. The contest began about 2:30 o'clock and lasted two hours. **Hammond** and **Catlin** occupied the points for the visitors, and **Campbell** and **Noyes** for the home nine. In the first inning Florence was whitewashed and the visitors secured four runs. Florence made a run in the second inning, and was whitewashed in the third, fourth and fifth innings. Iron Mountain was whitewashed in the second inning, but made two runs in the third

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inning, three in the fourth inning and four in the fifth inning. The score at the end of the fifth inning, therefore, was 13 to 1 in favor of Iron Mountain, a state of affairs due mostly to errors in the infield on the part of Florence. During the last four innings, however, the Florence players held their opponents down in fine shape, and, although they could not overcome the lead secured by the latter, they succeeded in giving the score more of a two-sided character. They made one run in the sixth inning, three in the seventh, were whitewashed in the eighth and piled up four runs in the ninth. The visitors secured one run in *[need to finish copying this article]*

The Current, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 47 [Saturday, December 22, 1888], page 1, column 4

SCORCHED.

FIRE DESTROYED \$40,000 WORTH OF PROPERTY AT IRON MOUNTAIN – FIFTEEN BUSINESS HOUSES DESTROYED.

About one o'clock Tuesday morning fire was discovered in **Peter Baptiste's building** occupied by **Silverman, Davis & Levy**, as a **general dry goods store**. The alarm was given and quickly responded to by the efficient volunteer brigade, but although three streams were quickly brought to play, in the flammable nature of the building and the prevalence of a strong wind made it impossible to stay the flames until the following business and dwelling houses had been destroyed:

Sundstrom's Locomotive bakery.

“ **General store.**

Buzzo's saloon & boarding house.

Pederson's shoe shop.

Mich. Carrigliotti's double saloon.

Nomilini's saloon.

Silverman[,] Davis & Levy dry goods.

Frederick's store.

Grossbusch's general store.

Bender's barber shop.

Mrs. Manning's boarding house.

LaDuke's boarding house.

David Bergeron justice office.

leaving only **Tullgren's brick building** intact in the whole block. The loss is estimated by the **Industrial Journal**, (to an extra issued from that office we are indebted for the names of the sufferers and other information,) at about \$40,000 with insurance as follows:

Silverman, Davis & Levy	\$4,000
C. Sundstrom	2,500
Joseph Flesheim [sic – Fleshiem]	500
Peter Baptiste	1,250
E.J. Ingram	1,000
Chris. Grossbush	900
Mich. Carrigliotte	750
Mrs. LaDuke	500
<hr/>	
Total.....	\$11,400

Had it not been for the recent snow it is probable that many more buildings would have been destroyed. Even now the blow is a severe one and it is a question if some of the sufferers will be able to resume business. It has been asserted that the **new volunteer fire company** was unexperienced [sic – inexperienced], and some reflections have been cast upon its manner of handling the fire. Perhaps this may be true, but during a short visit immediately after the fire we noticed some ice coated volunteer brigade men who have often done able and valiant work at fires in days gone by, and we cannot think that they have lost their cunning or their grit. It

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is often easier to stand by and criticise [*sic* – *criticize*] the work of others than it is to improve upon it. The writer has “been through the mill” and knows that being a volunteer fireman is one of the most thankless jobs on earth.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 52 [Saturday, December 22, 1888], page 8, column 1

THE IRON MOUNTAIN FIRE.

Thirteen Wooden Buildings Consumed – Incendiarism [*sic*] Suspected.

A disastrous fire occurred [*at*] Iron Mountain early Tuesday morning, the flames wiping out thirteen buildings, all of which were old frame structures. The fire broke out in **Silverman, Davy & Levy’s general store** shortly before 1 o’clock, and rapidly spread to the surrounding buildings. With but one or two exceptions, the burned buildings were mere fire-traps, and but for the losses sustained by some of the uninsured victims, the conflagration was a good thing for the city. The fire was bound to come sooner or later, and if it had occurred at almost any other season of the year, it is fair to presume that an infinite amount of other valuable property would have been sacrificed to the destructive fire fiend. The roofs of the buildings were laden with snow on Tuesday morning, which materially aided the department in staying the progress of the flames as soon as the wooden rookeries were consumed. Nothing could save them. The fire was in the last block on the principal street, at the

northwesterly end of the street, where the track running up to the **Chapin mine** cuts off the street. A portion of the same ground has been burned before. The loss is estimated at about \$50,000, though it is likely it will come considerably under this amount when the adjusters complete their work. Nearly all of the heaviest losers were adequately insured. The fire is believed to have been of incendiary origin and the hand of suspicion ominously points to certain individuals of Iron Mountain as the authors. Actual proofs of guilt are lacking at present and no arrests have yet been made.

The MINING NEWS congratulates **Ed. Ingram, Iron Mountain’s leading druggist**, over his fortunate escape. Ed recently moved out of one of the burned rookeries into an elegant brick store, thus happily saving himself a heavy loss. He lost a few goods and fixtures, however, but the loss is covered by insurance. The Range gives the estimated losses as follows:

H.N. LaDuke , buildings.....	\$2,500
Insurance.....	1,500
D. Bergeron , office fixtures.....	150
D. Conterini , saloon.....	200
M. Goldman & Co. , notions.....	300
C. Grossbusch , building and stock, fully Insured.....	4,000
John Friederich , building.....	2,500
Insurance.....	1,000
E.J. Ingram , goods, fully insured.....	500
Grenfell , candies, etc.	235
Silverman, Davis & Levy , clothing....	5,000
Insurance.....	4,000
V. Nomilini , saloon.....	1,000
Phil Bender , barber.....	100
Peter Baptiste , saloon and buildings..	5,000
Insurance.....	2,750
Gus Peterson , shoemaker.....	150
Tom Buzzo , saloon.....	250
Fred Smith , building.....	1,000
Michael Coragliotti , buildings.....	3,000

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Edwin Freeman , saloon and livery barn	3,500
Wm. Sundstrom , building and general Merchandise	8,000
Insurance	4,500
Peterson , household goods	150
Locomotive bakery	150
Mrs. Manning , boarding house	800
Totals	\$49,485

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 2 [Thursday, April 4, 1889], page 4, column 2

A Narrow Escape from Blazes.

Dickie Silverwood, one of the occupants of the **Bank building**, on Friday night, thought he smelt [*sic – smelled*] fire somewhere in his vicinity, and a very short investigation led him to believe that the fire was in the next room, which is occupied by **Justice Bergeron** as a courtroom. When he entered that room he found it filled with smoke, and a glowing red spot in the floor near the wall showed him where the mischief was at work. A few buckets of water soon quenched the smouldering [*sic – smoldering*] fire, which, which had already eaten a large hole right through the floor, above **Wright Bro's store**, besides blistering the base board [*sic – baseboard*] panelling [*sic – paneling*]. **Dave Bergeron** says he can only account for the affair by presuming that two Jewish peddlers, who were taking out garnishee warrants before him late in the afternoon, and who smoked cigarettes persistently all the time, must have thrown the ends of their cigarettes into the sawdust-filled papier-mache spittoon, and that these had smouldered [*sic – smoldered*] until they had at last eaten through sawdust and spittoon, and done the damage now reported.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 3 [Thursday, April 11, 1889], page 1, column 5

Sitting in **Rundle's opera house** last Monday evening we noticed the number of business cards on the stage drop that are already out of date. It is not two years we think since this curtain was painted, yet ten of the advertisements already represent business houses that no longer exist[,/] either having suspended entirely or changed hands. For instance: **McLaughlin & Devere** are no longer insurance agents, having been succeeded by the **Menominee Range Insurance agency**; **T.B. Catlin** sells groceries, fruits, candies, cigars, etc., instead of furniture; **Laing Bros[.]** are succeeded by **Hoose & Waters**; **L.M. Hansen**, not **John Minnis**, is proprietor of the Iron Mountain livery stable; **Verhalen Bros.** left Iron Mountain a year ago or more; instead of **Rundle's Bros.** it is now **Thos. Rundle**; instead of **Robbins & Blackney**, it is **Blackney & Son**; instead of **Schuldes & Carriere** it is **C. Schuldes**, and **Lieberthal & Co.** have no further use for an advertisement on Rundle's drop curtain, nor have **Hathaway & Flatt**.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 18 [Saturday, April 25, 1891], page 5, column 3

William Giroda and Miss **Mary Hancock**, both of **Iron Mountain**, were married in this city Wednesday, **Justice W.C. Haberkorn** officiating. Mr. and Mrs. **P. McCrystal**, of Iron Mountain, accompanied to [*sic – the*] happy couple to Florence and were witnesses of the marriage.

The household of Mr. and Mrs. **C.A. Miller** was increased on Saturday last by

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the advent of a 12-pound girl. This is the first arrival and Charlie is as happy as a king. – [Range.

The Menominee Range, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 7 [Thursday, May 7, 1891], page 1, column 3

THE draymen about town had plenty of work on Friday last and all day long great loads of furniture, store fixtures, etc., were passing to and fro on the streets. May 1 is considered all over the country to be a general moving day and it seems to be an established fact that more people move on that day than any other day in the whole year. In this city there were more removals than usual and many business men [*sic – businessmen*] are comfortably ensconced [*sic – ensconced*] in their new quarters while others are making preparations to become settled. The **Montgomery building** which was formerly occupied by the **saloon of J.H. Williams**, [*sic*] will be taken up in a few days by the **Bee Hive** store. The building is being remodeled this week and when completed will make one of the finest stores in town, the old front having been torn out and substituted by one of plate glass. **Williams' saloon** now occupies the building recently erected by **Sol. Noble** on Ludington street. **Edward St. Arnaud** has vacated the building he occupied on Stephenson avenue and has removed his saloon to the **Gingras & Trepanier building** on Hughitt street. **J.R. Johnston** will occupy the vacated room with his tailor-shop [*sic – tailor shop*] and gents' furnishing store. The room is being newly refitted and papered and will make a good stand for Mr. Johnston's business. The **City Shoe Store** has been removed from Brown street to a stand on Stephenson avenue where **Joseph Parry** and **A. Lieberthal & Co.**

were stationed. This will now be an exclusive boot and shoe store and will be managed by Mr. Parry and **Fred Hunting**. The building vacated by them on Brown street will be occupied by **A. Uddenberg** as a drug store. **A[.] Lieberthal [*sic – Lieberthal*] & Co.** will remove their store to the building now occupied by the **Bee Hive**, but later in the year they will remove to the store now taken up by **Sam Rusky**, who in turn will go to the **Bee Hive's** present location.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 26 [Saturday, June 2, 1891], page 8, column 1

Wright, the Great Sprinter, in Town.

George Wright, of Norway, spent two or three days this week in Florence, the guest of his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. **W.J. Hocking**, Florence Avenue. Mr. Wright is the young gentleman who easily defeated **Herb Simpson**, Iron Mountain's much boasted sprinter, in a foot race in that city, last week. The Journal says "Wright is undoubtedly the fastest sprinter in the upper peninsula, and Simpson, although a good one, was clearly outclassed. About \$200 of Iron Mountain's money went into Norway's charity fund." He is studying medicine in the office of his brother, **Dr. Wright**, one of the ablest physicians and surgeons on the range.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 27 [Saturday, June 27, 1891], page 5, column 4

Good for Iron Mountain.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

It was rumored here to-day [sic – today] that **H.D. Fisher**, of this city, will build a \$20,000 **brick store building on Stephenson Avenue**, Iron Mountain, this summer. The new structure, it is said, will be three stories high and one of the handsomest and most substantial business blocks ever erected in Dickinson County. Mr. Fisher is out of town to-day [sic – today], making it impossible for the MINING NEWS to verify the rumor.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 29 [Saturday, July 11, 1891], page 5, column 2

The Rumor Confirmed.

It was rumored here to-day [sic – today] that H.D. Fisher, of this city, will build a \$20,000 brick store building on Stephenson Avenue, Iron Mountain, this summer. The new structure, it is said, will be three stories high and one of the handsomest and most substantial business blocks ever erected in Dickinson County. Mr. Fisher is out of town to-day [sic – today], making it impossible for the MINING NEWS to verify the rumor. – [FLORENCE NEWS.

An investigation by the **Dickinson County Journal** discloses the fact that the **building will be erected on Chicago & North-Western railroad ground on Ludington Street, immediately opposite No. 1 engine house**. The lease of the property has already been obtained, and **Architect Clancy** has been employed to draw up the plans of the structure. It will be a magnificent three story and basement block, either of stone or brick, sixty feet frontage on Ludington Street and 108 feet deep. **E.J. Ingram** and **A.D. Stiles**, of **Iron Mountain**, are identified with Mr. Fisher, of

Florence, in the enterprise, and **Mr. Ingram's drug store** will undoubtedly occupy one of the store apartments. The building will be so close to the present business center of the city as to be a desirable place for rental.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 30 [Saturday, July 18, 1891], page 5, column 1

H.D. FISHER, of this city[,] will **commence the construction of his three-story brick and stone building, at Iron Mountain**, in about a week. The first floor will be devoted to store rooms, the second floor to offices and the third floor to hall, banquet room, ante rooms, etc., for lodge purposes.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 30 [Saturday, July 18, 1891], page 5, column 2

J.J. Eskil, the **Florence photographer**, who is **erecting a beautiful stone photograph gallery near the Journal office**, has made arrangements to remove to this city. He will reside here permanently, **occupying the old gallery now on Stephenson Avenue**. – [I. Mt. Journal.

Anthony Dodero, of this city, and Miss **Maggie Tremen**, of Iron Mountain, were married by **Justice W.C. Haberkorn** at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. No cards. The Misses **Rosa Stephan** and **Lizzie Walsh**, of **Iron Mountain**, friends of the girl-bride, were present at the ceremony.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 38 [Saturday, September 12, 1891], page 5, column 5

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – CITY OF IRON MOUNTAIN – EARLY ACCOUNTS AND GROWTH

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

“WHERE will the new **Dickinson County offices** be located?” is a questions that is being frequently asked now a days [sic – nowadays]. The Iron Mountain Journal believes either **John R. Wood** or **H.D. Fisher** will capture the prize. Both gentlemen are erecting elegant business blocks at the new county seat. ‘Twould be pretty safe to bet on H.D.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 40 [Saturday, September 26, 1891], page 5, column 1

THE postmaster of Iron Mountain has received official notice that the county of Dickinson has been formed and that it contains the **postoffices [sic – post offices] of Floodwood, Foster City, Grnaite Bluff, Hardwood, Iron Mountain, Metropolitan, Norway, Quinnesec, Randville, Sagola, Vulcan and Waucedah.**

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI, Number 40 [Saturday, September 26, 1891], page 5, column 1

D.A. GRAHAM, of **Iron Mountain**, the **leading harness-maker of the range**, has failed. He made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors to **F.E. Crocker**, on Wednesday. Mr. Graham was formerly located in this city. It is to be hoped he will satisfactorily arrange matters so as to be able to resume business in the very near future.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XII, Number 3 [Saturday, January 9, 1892], page 5, column 1

MRS. LILLY CHAMPION has sued the city of **Iron Mountain** for **\$20,000 damages**. She fell upon a defective sidewalk, **December 21, 1890**, and sustained severe and painful injuries.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XII, Number 3 [Saturday, January 9, 1892], page 5, columns 1-2

H.D. Fisher’s elegant new brick block, at Iron Mountain, is rapidly filling up. The Range says **Cook & Pelham** have three very large and pleasant office rooms on the second floor front, and the **water works company** has equally pleasant ones across the hall. The **register of deeds and county clerk** also have their offices on the second floor. The offices of **Hamlin & Fordyce**, the **Upper Michigan Brewing Company** and **Detroit Building and Loan Association** are rooms 2 and 3, on the first floor, entrance from the east side of the building. **Jos. Lemeiux [sic – Lemieux]** also has his office in the building. The new building is generally known as the “**Florence Block.**”

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XII, Number 5 [Saturday, January 23, 1892], page 5, columns 1-2

A New Bank in Iron Mountain.

The Range positively states, on the assurance of interested parties, that a **new bank will be established in H.D. Fisher’s building, at Iron Mountain**, and be in operation by the first of March. Whether it will be a savings bank or a national is not yet fully decided, but there is a strong probability that it will be the former. In either event it will have strong financial

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backing, and the management will be in able hands. **Oliver Evans** severed his connection with the **First National Bank**, of that city, on Tuesday, and will be **cashier of the new bank**. Mr. Evans has made himself very popular with the business men *[sic – businessmen]* of this city during the time the *[sic – he]* has been **cashier of the First National**, and his acceptance of the cashiership of the new bank insures to that institution a liberal share of public patronage. Mr. Evans is succeeded by **M.A. Northrop**, of Bessemer, a gentleman of large experience in the responsible duties of cashier. At the last annual meeting of the board of directors of the First National, **A.F. Wright** tendered his resignation as vice-president, and will cast his fortunes with the new enterprise.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XII, Number 8 [Saturday, February 13, 1892], page 8, column 1

The New Bank.

Articles of incorporation *[sic – incorporation]* of the **Commercial Bank of Iron Mountain** have been filed with **County Clerk Friedrich**. By its terms the nature of its business will be both that of a commercial and savings bank, and the capital stock is \$50,000 divided into 500 shares of \$100 each. The incorporators are **Jesse Spaulding** *[sic – Spalding]*, of Chicago; **Michael Corry**, **John F. Hancock** and **Francis A. Brown** of, *[sic – ,of]* Marinette; **John S. George** and **John J. Van Dyke**, of Milwaukee; **H.D. Fisher**, of Florence; **Oliver Evans**, **A.F. Wright**, **Albert Levy**, **E.L. Parmenter**, **Wm. Sundstrom**, **Lee Fordyce**, **H.M. Pelham**, **D.H. Lieberthal**, **G.T. Corning**, **Meyer Kramer**, **A.M. Oppenheim**, **E. St. Arnold**,

Louis Arnold, **W.H. Scandling**, **Wm. B. Allen**, **Edwin Freeman**, **E.A. Ordway**, **E.J. Ingram**, **C.E. Parent**, **Dr. Wm. Hutchinson**. The names above mentioned, particularly those heading the list, cannot fail to give the public confidence in the solidity of the institution, while the Iron Mountain shareholders are leading and successful business men *[sic – businessmen]*. The new bank, it is expected, will be ready for business by the 1st of March. – [Range.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XII, Number 9 [Saturday, February 20, 1892], page 5, column 5

A SOUND INSTITUTION.

Iron Mountain's New Bank – Facts Concerning Its Officers.

An enthusiastic meeting of the stockholders of the new **Commercial Bank** was held at Iron Mountain, Monday night. An organization was perfected by the election of the following excellent board of directors: **Jesse Spalding**, Chicago; **J.F. Hancock**, **F.A. Brown**, Marinette; **Oliver Evans**, **M. Levy**, **F.C. Swart**, **H.M. Pelham**, **E.L. Parmenter, Jr.**, Iron Mountain.

The directors subsequently elected officers for the ensuing year as follows:

President – **Jesse Spalding**.

Vice President – **Francis A. Brown**.

Cashier – **Oliver Evans**.

The stock will be paid in by the 25th inst. *[of this month]* and the bank will be opened for business March 1st. The names of the directors are a sufficient guarantee of the future success of the new institution. **Jesse Spalding** is one of the best known men and

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capitalists of Chicago, and Francis A. Brown is one of the leading, progressive business men [*sic* – *businessmen*] of Northern Wisconsin. He is also superintendent and general manager of the **Ludington mine**. The Commercial Bank will get the bulk of Iron Mountain business. Its cashier, Oliver Evans, who is held in the highest esteem in Florence as well as at his own home, Iron Mountain, is very popular in Iron Mountain commercial circles, and enjoys the unbounded confidence and respect of the public at large. He has had many years' experience in the banking business and at the last election received the unanimous vote of his fellow citizens for the office of city treasurer. Certain parties, instigated, no doubt, by feelings of jealousy or envy, recently attempted to cast a cloud upon his official integrity by demanding and obtaining an investigation of his books. The result, as everybody expected, proved Mr. Evans to be an honest and careful custodian of the city's money, and the people pin their faith on Oliver more than ever before. His reputation remains unsullied and will so continue to remain, in spite of the efforts of disappointed non-residents to prove otherwise. The "investigation," it is said, was demanded, partly, for political effect, but the outcome of the whole spiteful business has only had the effect of strengthening Mr. Evans' popularity with the people of all political beliefs.

School Record, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 10, Number 6 [February, 1910], pages 21-24 [*This was the Iron Mountain school newspaper.*]

EARLY IRON MOUNTAIN.

July 5, 1879, **Captain John Wicks** with seven men arrived at the **Chapin location**.

They were employed by the **Menominee Iron Mining Co.** to explore these parts. They came from **Quinnesec**, then the terminus of the railroad, with a team consisting of four mules to a wagon, bringing tents, tools and provisions, and a few boards with which to build a kitchen and a roof over a table which was built of rough boards in the open. They pitched their tents on **section thirty**.

Joseph Sandercock arrived on the fifteenth day of of [*sic*] September, 1879, and set up his anvil, the first in Iron Mountain, on a stump, and hung his bellows between two trees.

Oct. 22, 1879, the **Menominee Range, a newspaper published at Quinnesec**, stated that the **Chapin mine** was down sixty feet and what was thought to be good ore had been found.

Building commenced soon after this, **David Majo** being first to have a building ready for occupancy. Cold weather having set in the house was immediately overflowing with boarders [*sic* – *boarders*]. About two weeks later **Jerome Rayome** had a building ready for boarders and soon the **Company [Menominee Mining Company]** completed a house. **These buildings were located on ground that has since caved in, about on line with Vulcan Street.** Subsequently many other buildings were put up in the vicinity. **In 1885, the cave-in having begun, these buildings were removed.**

When **Captain Wicks** and his men came here, there was a roving band of **Indians encamped nearby**. The nearest building inhabited was occupied by explorers about half way to **Quinnesec**. **A deserted log shack, formerly occupied by lumbermen[,] stood near the present C.M. & St. Paul station.**

The town was platted in the fall of 1879. **Samuel W. and Isaac Stephenson** and **Joseph Fleshiem** were the proprietors.

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The plat contained fifteen blocks and six streets; *[sic]* namely: **Flehiem, Brown, Ludington, Hughitt Streets and Stephenson Avenue.** The plat was recorded Dec. 15, 1879.

Building commenced at once. **Frank Ayers**, a bachelor from Maine who had been exploring in these regions with a churn drill, was the **first to have a building ready for occupancy.** It was **located on the southeast corner of Stephenson Ave. and Ludington St.** He procured some lumber from Marinette and cut cedars in the swamp nearby for studding. He put in a **small stock [of] “lumberjack” furnishings**, including mittens, overalls, stockings, shoepacks, tobacco, liquors, etc. Later he started a **restaurant**, the first in the place, **Thomas Hayes being employed as cook.** He next **added groceries and meats.** In the spring or early summer of 1880, he **sold a half interest in the business to William Doucette.** About two months later Mr. Doucette became sole proprietor and Mr. Ayers hied himself to parts unknown.

Mr. **Charles Parent** should have the credit of having been the **first general merchant** as he came here in Nov. 1879, bringing a stock of general merchandise and *[sic]* **commenced business in a tent.** He was accompanied by his **half-brother William.** Their families were still in Marinette. He soon had a **building** in readiness, **located on Stephenson Ave. between Ludington and Brown Streets.** He was **second postmaster.** He continued business here many years and was a highly respected resident of the city until his death.

R.C. Philbrook commenced building about the same time as Mr. Parent. He put in a **stock of general merchandise** (general merchandise at that time included liquors). He was the **first postmaster.**

In Jan. 1880, **Andrew Boyington** and family came, **Mrs. Boyington being the first woman in Iron Mountain.** **Mrs. William Parent** did not come until April, 1880, a short time after the arrival of **Thomas Hayes[']** wife, and **Mrs. Charles Parent** came in July, 1880.

Mr. Boyington bought two lots and erected a two story *[sic – two-story]* frame building. He was engaged in business here about two years and then **removed to Iron River** where he has since lived.

The **first birth at the Chapin Location**, Jan. 8, 1880, named **Lillian Rayome**, daughter of **Jerome and Desanges (Germain) Rayome.** The **first birth in the city proper** was **William E. Hayes**, July 27, 1880, son of **Thomas and Ellen (Garity) Hayes.**

The railroad was completed here in **July, 1880.**

It must be remembered that **Quinnesec was at this time the metropolis of the range and was an exceedingly active town.** During the week ending March 6, 1880, there were one hundred ninety-one arrivals at the **Quinnesec Hotel.** Exploration was going on all over the range as far west as **Florence** which was established in the fall of 1879 by **H.D. Fisher**, and late in January 1880 was connected with Quinnesec by a hack line. **The first paper on the range was the Menominee Range, started at Quinnesec in March[,]** 1879. In December, 1881, when Quinnesec began to decline, this paper was moved to Norway (started in **August, 1879**) which would indicate that **Norway was considered then a more important town than Iron Mountain.** On **July 1, 1882**, the paper was moved to **Iron Mountain.**

The **first church building in Iron Mountain was the First Methodist Church** which building was inclosed *[sic – enclosed]* Sept. 22, 1881. On July 28,

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1883, C.L. Anderson opened the first bank, which later developed into the First National Bank.

This county was at the time a part of Menominee County. In March, 1883, an attempt was made to have the legislature divide the county and name this part Brown County. The attempt failed, however, and it was not until 1891 that Dickinson County was formed.