

MENOMINEE RANGE MEMORIES 88: DOWNTOWN IRON MOUNTAIN – 100-124 WEST B STREET

By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian



Looking east, the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society**, established by **1902** in the **Spencer Block** at **118-1922 West B Street**, was managed by **Alex LaViolette**. In **June of 1910** it became the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Co., Ltd.** The 70 x 90-foot remodeled structure burned to the ground on **January 15, 1935**. The **Central Methodist Church**, built in **1882**, was located at **112 West B Street**. A white horse-drawn hearse parked in front of the church, probably indicated the funeral of a child was in progress when this photograph was taken. The 61-year-old church was destroyed by fire on **January 5, 1944**. These structures were across the street from the **Commercial Hotel** (later the **Milliman Hotel**, the **Dickinson Hotel** and the **Dickinson Inn**) and some private residences. [Gene Derwinski/Dick Ferris]

[NOTE: Dates, placed chronologically, are highlighted in boldface red letters for easier reading, and names of individuals and places are highlighted in boldface black letters to facilitate finding information.]

The 88th installment of Menominee Range Memories, a series of articles by William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation historian, now available on the Dickinson County Library's website, is titled "Downtown Iron Mountain – 100-124 West B Street."

History of 100: **Hoose & Gage** (Jay W. Hoose and Fred Gage) operated a "Livery, sale and boarding stable" at this location in **1892-1894**, advertising: "General teaming. First class livery turnouts at reasonable prices."

Two items in "Brief City Newsites" in the **September 7, 1899** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted a business change and additional vehicles for use at this location as follows:

L.M. Hansen [Louis M. Hansen (1859-1922)] has leased the **Gage livery barn** opposite the **Commercial Hotel** and will conduct the same in the future. It will be

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stocked with splendid driving horses and fine carriages, and will be conducted in the same courteous manner as the Stephenson avenue stable.

L.M. Hansen has ordered another trap and several fine single buggies from Morris, the Waupun, Wis., carriage manufacturer.



Hoose & Gage (Jay W. Hoose (1860-1924) and **Fred Gage**) operated a "Livery, sale and boarding stable" at **100 West B Street** in **1892**, advertising: "General teaming. First class livery turnouts at reasonable prices." **Louis M. Hansen** leased the Gage livery barn in **September 1899**, his sign indicating **L.M. Hansen Livery Sale & Boarding Stable**. **Joseph DeConcini** ran a livery stable and feed store here by **1907**. In **1913** **John H. McKenna** operated a livery and sale stable here. In **mid-October 1915** **Calvi & Tollen** were remodeling their livery barn here, "putting in a glass front and side windows; also a stone foundation and concrete floor, making the building suitable for a garage." A 24 x 36-foot addition was built in the rear as a repair shop. **John Lloyd** and **Garnet James** leased the garage, opening their business in **February 1916**. By **1925** **Winkler Motor Company**, **Herbert Winkler**, proprietor, sold Oldsmobiles and Rickenbacker Motor Cars here, and in **1935** **Emil Johnson** operated **Johnson's Garage** at this location. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum Photo]*

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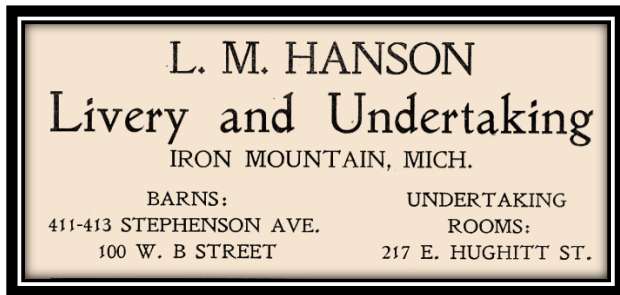
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Hoose & Gage (Jay W. Hoose (1860-1924) and **Fred Gage**) operated a “Livery, sale and boarding stable” at **100 West B Street** in **1892**, advertising: “General teaming. First class livery turnouts at reasonable prices.” **Louis M. Hansen** (1859-1922) leased the Gage livery barn in **September 1899**, his sign indicating **L.M. Hansen Livery, Sale & Boarding Stable**. This photograph was probably taken between **1899** and **1906**. **Joseph DeConcini** (1876-1921) ran a livery stable and feed store at this address by **1907**. In **1913** **John H. McKenna** (1877-1931) operated a livery and sale stable here. The property, located directly across from the **Commercial Hotel**, seemed to change hands frequently. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum Photo]*

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This advertisement for L.M. HANSON [sic – HANSEN] appeared in the *Directory of the Cities of Iron Mountain and Norway and Villages of Quinnesec and Vulcan, Mich. with a List of the Residents of Niagara, Wis.*, **1902-1903**.

In **1902-1903** Louis M. Hansen (1859-1922) operated two livery stables, one at this address and the other at 411-413 South Stephenson Avenue. Hansen also was owner of an undertaking parlor at 217 East Hughitt Street in the **Robbins Block**. **Allen Labrook** [Allen John LaBrook – 1879-1958] worked at Hansen's livery at this address in 1902-1903. By **1907-1908** **Joseph DeConcini** (1876-1921) was running a livery stable and feed store at this location, and **James Davis** (1879-1956), a hostler (a groom or stableman), lived here with his wife **Tena Davis (Marie E. Troyan Davis – 1881-1955)**. **John H. McKenna** (1877-1931) ran a livery and sale stable here in **1913**.

An article in the **October 15, 1915** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* documented the change from livery stable to automotive garage as follows:

Calvi & Tollen, who own the livery barn opposite **The Milliman Hotel**, will remodel the building, putting in a glass front and side windows; also a stone foundation and concrete floor, making the building suitable for a garage. **Anton Miench** (1867-1936) will raise the building preparatory to building the foundation.

A few weeks later another article, appearing in the **November 4, 1915** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*, provided additional information as follows:

The work of converting the **McKenna livery barn** into a garage is now in progress. A stone foundation has been built and the plank floor taken out preparatory to re-placing [sic – replacing] with concrete. An addition, 24x36 feet in size, will be built on the rear of the building to be used as a repair shop. The garage when completed will be leased to **John Lloyd** [John Owen Lloyd (1878-1925)] and **Garnet James** [Garnet H. James (1893-1979)]. John Lloyd has been employed as foreman of the machine shops at the **Pewabic mine** for several years and Garnet James is a blacksmith by trade with considerable experience in auto repair work. The new firm expects to take the agency for some leading automobile. They will no doubt make a success in their new business venture.

An article in the **January 13, 1916** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* noted further changes in the Lloyd & James garage as follows:

John Lloyd and Garnett [sic – Garnet] **James**, well-known young business men, expect to open their new garage in the remodeled building opposite **The Milliman** about the first of February. The building is well adapted for the purpose. It will have a storage capacity for about twenty-five automobiles with a convenient office annex. A machine shop has been erected in the rear and it will be equipped with an up-to-date plant of machinery. The firm has secured the agency for the famous Buick automobile, heretofore handled by **Bjorkman & Son**, and will handle a complete line of auto accessories and repairs. In addition, the firm will specialize in machinery repair work of all kinds. Mr.

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Lloyd, the senior member of the firm, has been foreman of the Pewabic machine shops for a number of years and has had a wide experience in all lines of shop work including automobiles. Mr. James is a blacksmith by trade and has also had experience in automobile repair work. The young men are congenial, reliable and accommodating and will no doubt succeed in their business venture.

The **Winkler Motor Company**, **Herbert D. Winkler** (1886-1949), proprietor, "Oldsmobile Sales and Service," was located at this address in **1925**. An article in the April 6, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* announced a new line for the local company as follows:

The Winkler Motor company has received the agency for the Rickenbacker motor cars, it was announced today. One of the members of the firm left today for Milwaukee to drive back one of the new models. The Winkler firm also handles the Oldsmobile.

Johnson's Garage, operated by **Emil Johnson**, was at this site in **1935** and still listed here in **1939**. However, in the **1941-1942** city directory **Ace Buick Sales**, operated by **Gottfred Rudolph Johnson** (1895-1961), was located at this address.

In **1946** the **Blackstone Garage**, owned by **H.C. Hughes** [**Herbert Charles Hughes**, operated here.

By **1959** the **Peninsula Oil Company, Inc.** (**George W. Lofstrom** (1913-1981), president; **Wes Edwards**, secretary) – distributors of Shell Products, and **Gerry's Shell Service** [**Gerald Arthur "Gerry" Rittenhouse** (1925-2017)], a gas station, were located here. Both businesses were listed in the **1961** directory.

From **1963 through 1985** the Peninsula Oil Company remained in business at this location. George W. Lofstrom continued to be listed as president from 1963-1977.

From 1971 through 1977 George's wife, **Eleanor May (Crummey) Lofstrom** (1912-2001), was listed as secretary-treasurer. From 1974 through 1977 **Lee H. Lofstrom** was listed as vice-president and then was listed as president from 1978 through 1985. From 1978 through 1981 **Mrs. Roberta Lofstrom** was listed as secretary-treasurer, and then as secretary from 1982 through 1985.

In **1963** **Thomas D. Quayle** was the general manager of **Business Associates, Inc.**, and also operated **Quayle's Travel Service** at this address.

In **1966 and 1967** **Mauritz E. Carlson** operated **Carlson Personal Travel Service** here.

From **1986 through 1991** **Michael R. Laydon** and **Gary E. Maynard** operated **Laydon, Maynard & Company, PC**, certified public accountants. From **1992 through 2000** the firm was listed as **Michael R. Laydon PC CPA**.

History of 102: There are no listings for this address from 1892 through 2000.

History of 104: There are no listings for this address from 1892 through 2000.

History of 106: **Charles Guneson**, a painter, lived at this address in **1892-1894**.

In **1902-1903** **Theodore Strebel**, of **Holfeltz & Strebel** [**Jacob R. Holfeltz** (1859-1930) and **Theodore Strebel**], a firm selling "agricultural implements, wagons, buggies, ice, lime, brick, cement and plaster" at 104 River Avenue, resided at this address.

James Murphy, a railroad worker, lived here in **1907-1908** with his wife **Amelia Murphy**.

In **1913** **James L. Murphy**, now a conductor, still lived at this address with his wife **Emelia Murphy**.

Mrs. Lillian D'Amour [**Lillian (Betters) D-Amour-Langlois** (1882-1958), widow of **Wilfred J. D'Amour** (1879-1923), resided

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here in **1925**. By **1935** **Vincent Norman Granger** (1907-1974) ran his barbershop at this location, listed as **Granger Barber Shop** in the **1939** and the **1941-1942** city directories.

In **1946** **Jere's Collegiate Shop** was located at 106 West B Street.

By **1959** **Dr. Willis Herbert "Herb" Huron** (1900-1991) saw patients at his office at this address, remaining there until **1982**. In **1981** **Dr. Daniel M. Mitchell** joined Dr. Huron and remained his practice there through **1985**.

The address was listed as vacant in **1986 and 1987**.

From **1988 through 1990** the **Hollingsworth & Krause Law Office** (**Jerome L. Hollingsworth** and **Dale M. Krause**, attorneys) occupied this site. From **1991 through 1998** the **Krause & Paupore PC Law Office** (**Dale M. Krause** and **Jeffrey G. Paupore**, attorneys) maintained their offices here.

In **1998**, brothers **Daniel P. "Dan" Paupore** (1951-2020), **David Paupore** (1953-xxxx) and **Mark Paupore** (1958-xxxx), owners of **Kingsley North, Inc.**, purchased **106 West B Street** from their brother **Jeffrey G. Paupore** (1949-xxxx). There, they established a custom jewelry store, with **Mark Paupore** and his wife **Kathleen "Kitty" Paupore** (1956-xxxx) serving as the founding jewelers. By **2013**, their daughter **Kaitlin Paupore** joined her mother Kitty, carrying forward the family tradition of custom jewelry.

History of 108: There are no listings for this address from **1892 through 2000**.

History of 110: **John R. Johnston**, an "Artistic merchant tailor and dealer in the only line of fashionable gentlemen's furnishings," resided at this address in **1892-1894**, and operated his tailor shop at 204 East Ludington Street.

In **1902-1903** the **Rev. Isaac Wilcox**, pastor of the **Central Methodist Episcopal Church**, lived here in what was now the church parsonage. By **1907-1908** the **Rev. James Kerridge, Sr.**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided at this address with his wife **Jennie Kerridge** and **James Kerridge, Jr.** The **Rev. R.L. Hewson**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided in the parsonage here in **1913** with his wife **Agnes Hewson**. By **1925** the **Rev. Ernest Brown, Sr.** (1876-1953), pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, lived at this address with his wife **Mabel Brown** and **Ernest Brown, Jr.**, and **Ivan Brown**, both salesmen at the **J.C. Penny Company**. The **Rev. Matt Mullen**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided at the parsonage here in **1935** with his wife **Ethel F. Mullen**. By **1939** the **Rev. Henry A. Manahan**, pastor of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, resided here with his wife **Mary Manahan**. They were still listed here in the **1941-1942** city directory.

There were no listings for 110 West B Street from **1946 through 2000**.

History of 112 and 114: There was no listing for 112 West B Street in 1892-1894, 1902-1903, 1907-1908 or 1913. In 1925, 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942 the **Central Methodist Episcopal Church** was listed at this address instead of 114 West B Street.

History of 114: In the **fall of 1887**, the **Rev. G.C. Squires** was sent to Iron Mountain to serve the **First Methodist Episcopal Church** on the North Side and to organize the new downtown congregation which met at **Scandling's Hall**.

The foundation of the new church was laid on West "B" Street on land owned by **John T. Spencer**. The dedication service was conducted by the **Rev. A.R. Johns**,

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and presiding elder, the **Rev. Thompson**, on **May 26, 1889**. In **September 1890**, the **Rev. John M. Shank** became the first pastor with 108 full members and 20 probationers.

The **Central Methodist Church** occupied this site in **1892-1894** with the Rev. John M. Shank serving as pastor. Services were at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday school was at 2:15 p.m. Class meeting was held on Sunday morning before preaching, and at 3:15 p.m. and in the evening after preaching. Prayer meeting was held Thursday at 7 p.m. **J.H.**

Irwin was superintendent of the Sunday school.

Although there was no listing for this address in the **1902-1903** or in the **1907-1908** directory, the **Central Methodist Episcopal Church** was located here at that time. In **1913** the Central Methodist Episcopal Church was listed at this address.

There was no listing for this address in 1925, 1935, 1939 or 1941-1942, as the church address was given as 112 West B Street during that time.



The **Central Methodist Episcopal Church**, located at **112-114 West B Street**, was dedicated **May 26, 1889**, and this photograph, taken by **Jorgen J. Eskill**, probably dates shortly

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thereafter. The corner of the **parsonage** can be seen at the right, and a corner of the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society**, located in the **Spencer Block**, is visible at the left. The church was destroyed by fire on **January 5, 1944**. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

An article in the **December 13, 1921** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* announced the plans for a **new Central Methodist Episcopal Church** building to replace the original structure as follows:

Plans and specifications for a new Central Methodist Episcopal church to be erected upon the site of the present place of worship, on West B street, are now being drafted by F.E. Parmelee & Son, architects and building superintendents.

The proposed new church will be one of the handsomest structures of this character in the upper peninsula and will contain many features unusual in places of worship.

The style of architecture employed is gothic of a beautiful and unusual design and the building will present a pleasing and attractive appearance. The plans do not include the usual steeple.

Stone and brick will be employed in the construction and the estimated cost of the building will be over \$50,000.

The plans provide for many novel features in church erection, including a fine gymnasium and moving picture balcony.

The size of the building on the foundation will be 51 feet wide by 120 feet in length. In the basement will be located the gymnasium[,] dining-room, kitchen, seven large class-rooms, and the boiler and fuel rooms.

On the main floor is the foyer, 12 by 29 feet in size with waiting rooms for women and men on each side. These waiting rooms are 9 by 12 feet in size. From the foyer two stairways, one on each side[,] lead to the moving picture balcony, directly overhead.

The dimensions of the main auditorium are 52 by 51 feet and it will have a seating

capacity of 450 people. The chair-room [sic – choir room] is 26 by 12 feet in size and directly in the rear will be located a large and modern pipe [organ]. There are also four large class-rooms in the rear as well as two lavatories. A stairway in the rear will lead to the basement.

In point of attractiveness the new Central church will be unequalled in the peninsula and the gymnasium and moving picture balcony are evidences of an attempt to make the house of worship more popular with the young people, a tendency to place the church in the lead in community work.

It is expected that work on the building will commence early in the coming building season.

However, the new church was not constructed in **1922**, as when the church burned on **January 5, 1944**, the building was stated to be 61 years old.

FIRE: The following article appeared in the Wednesday, January 5, 1944 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* under the headline **\$30,000 Loss In Blaze At M.E. Church:**

*Only blackened, crumbling walls remained shortly after noon today of the 61-year-old **Central Methodist Episcopal church**, West B street, which was destroyed by fire of unknown origin at an estimated loss of \$30,000, about half of which is covered by insurance.*

*Smoke pouring from the building at about 11 this morning was noticed by employes [sic – employees] of **Frick's Bakery**, adjoining to the west, who notified the fire department and the **Rev. Percy Lomas**, pastor, at his home. The latter said he was in the church at 10 this morning, and saw nothing wrong.*

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There was no fire in the church furnace last night or early this morning, although it was said a heating stove was lighted last night, in an ante-room of the basement, for a Boy Scout meeting.

Hurrying to the church when told of the fire, the Rev. Lomas tried to enter, but was driven back by smoke and flames.

Fire Spread Quickly

Firemen played three streams of water into the structure, one from the roof of the adjoining bakery, but the blaze, fanned by a stiff cross-wind, gained rapid headway. Flames burst quickly through the roof and upper walls, and clouds of black smoke rolled out over the area.

Many spectators, including high school students, watched the blaze.

Built in 1882, the church was one of the oldest structures in the city. The old walls, dried and porous through long-standing, were ready fuel for the fire.

Organ Lost

*Lying in the charred embers today was the organ installed only five years ago and presented to the church by the children of the late **Richard Hosking**, who died Nov. 11, 1937. Lost also was the new pulpit Bible given by **Mrs. Eldred Roberts** and **John Thomas**, both of this city, in memory of their mother, **Mrs. Bessie Thomas**, who died Jan. 1, 1937.*

The church was redecorated last summer by members who contributed their labor.

Insurance of \$14,000 is carried on the building and \$500 on the contents, according to the McGregor agency, which has the coverage.

The old parsonage, adjoining the church to the east, and which has been closed since the Rev. Lomas became pastor, was not damaged. This building was sold by the church some time ago, and has already been ordered razed.

The Rev. Lomas, residing at 407 West B, said he would call the trustees together in the next few days, to discuss future plans.

There were no listings for this address from **1946 through 2000**.

History of 116: There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**, **1902-1903** or **1907-1908**.

The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** (**Adolph Anderson**, president; **Charles A. Hogg**, secretary; **Axel E. Nelson** (1872-1961), manager), successor to the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society**, was located at **116-122 West B Street** in **1913**, selling general merchandise. There was no listing for this address in **1925**.

However, the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company Company, Ltd.** (**William G. Monroe** (1870-1943), president; **Andrew Ostrand**, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; **Abraham E. "Abe" Gronlund** (1891-1941), secretary and manager) was listed as a "Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats, Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed" was located at **118-122 West B Street** in **1925**. [See the entry for 118 West B Street for additional information.]

William Eldred, a mail carrier for the post office, lived at this address in **1935** with his wife **Marie Eldred**.

In **1939** **Frick's Bakery**, owned and operated by **Donald Augustus Frickelton** (1905-1973) and **Ray William Frickelton** (1907-1986), was located here and was still listed at this address in the **1941-1942** city directory. In **1946** **Mrs. Rose Elizabeth (Kreitzer) Frickelton** (1879-1951) was listed as the proprietor. According to Find A Grave she was the wife of **Claude William Frickelton** (1878-1929) and mother of their son **Ray William Frickelton**.

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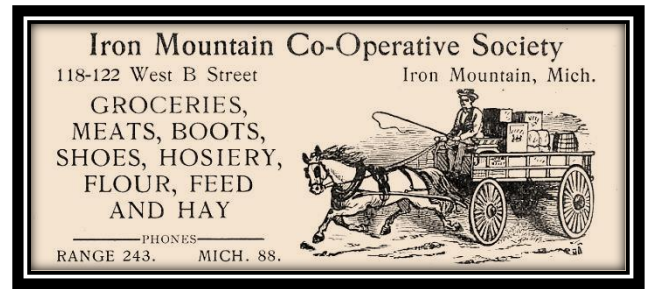
In **1961** the **DuCharme Bakery**, owned by **Eugene E. DuCharme** (1910-1985) occupied this site. By **1963 until 1967** **James A. Unger** operated the **Royal Bake Shoppe** here.

There were no listings for this address from **1969 through 2000**.

History of 118-122: **John Thomas Spencer, Sr.** (1864-1943), a “dealer in fruits and vegetables, provisions, confectionery and notions, operated a store and lived at this address, and had a second store, located at 321 South Stephenson Avenue in **1892-1894**.

Spencer began the erection of the **Spencer Block** next to the **Central Methodist Episcopal Church** at 112-114 West B Street. Unfortunately, this venture fell into the hands of the **Marquette Saving Bank** and finally was sold to the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society**.

By **1902-1903** the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** was located at 118-120-122 West B Street, selling general merchandise with **Alex LaViolette** working as manager.



This advertisement appeared in the *Directory of the Cities of Iron Mountain and Norway and Villages of Quinnesec and Vulcan, Mich. with a List of the Residents of Niagara, Wis., 1902-1903*.



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Looking north, the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society**, established by **1902** in the **Spencer Block (John Thomas Spencer, Sr.)** at **118-122 West B Street**, was managed by **Alex LaViolette**. This photograph dates no later than **June 1910** when the organization became the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*



Looking north, the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.**, following the **1924** remodeling project, had different transoms above the store front windows. The building to the left of the Mercantile was **Eugene DeGayner's** garage at 124 West B Street. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

[See more on the history of the Spencer Block on pages 26-30.]

In **1907-1908** the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** was located at **118-124 East B Street**, dealing in general merchandise and managed by **John Carlson**.

In its **June 9, 1910** edition, the *Iron Mountain Press* reported the following business change regarding the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society:

The Iron Mountain Co-Operative society has been succeeded by the Iron Mountain Mercantile Co., Limited. The latter company assumes the business and liabilities of the society. The organization of the Mercantile Co. was perfected last Friday with the following officers: President, Adolph Anderson, secretary, John Henry Holland (1873-1942);

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treasurer, **John Howard Hitchens** (1873-1946). The board of managers is composed of the above named officials and **William E. Jayne** and **Henry Trepanier**. The capital stock of the company is \$36,000. **James William Thompson** (1849-1925) will continue as manager of the business of the stores.

The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** (**Adolph Anderson**, president; **Charles A. Hogg**, secretary; **Axel E. Nelson** (1872-1961), manager), successor to the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society**, was located at 116-124 West B Street in **1913**, selling general merchandise.

An article in the **April 24, 1924** edition of *The Iron Mountain News* announced a major expansion of the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company** as follows:

The **Iron Mountain Mercantile company**, which conducts a large retail store in its own building on West B street, is planning improvements that will cost \$25,000, according to an announcement by **W.G. Monroe**, chairman of the board of directors.

In addition to extensive remodelling [sic – remodeling] in the store, a large warehouse and garage will be erected and work on this will get under way within the next 30 days.



The fireproof single-story 40 x 65-foot brick warehouse of the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.**, facilitated storage for a large quantity of merchandise. Some 45 teamsters

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were employed in delivering groceries and other goods. Note the early delivery trucks bearing the “Mercantile” name. This photograph was taken at the warehouse, and shows some of the delivery boys, including, from left to right, **Lionel Trepanier, Gunnard Swanson, Dane Westin** (butcher), **Ted Carrow, Frank Cooper, Armand Joseph Prenevost** (1898-1968), **Ezkil Swanson** and **George Edlund**. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

*The store at present occupies practically three separate stores. Partitions will be removed between these and the quarters enlarged to include the store formerly occupied by **Jacobs’ jewelry**. The changes will give it an area of 70x90 feet.*

A feature will be the installation of a refrigerating plant for the meat market. During rush hours butchers are unable to handle the trade as fast as is desired but this will be changed with the addition of

glass refrigerator counters in which may be placed meats already cut. In this manner, the meat can be prepared in advance without any danger of waste or spoilage.

The warehouse will be of either brick or stone construction, one story in height and 40x65 feet. It will be fireproof and large enough to store a quantity of merchandise. The garage, a separate building, will accommodate nine trucks. A barn will also be built for teams.



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The office of the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.**, included a system visible at the far left for sending containers with money and sales slips to a centralized location, similar to the pneumatic system used in bank drive-up facilities. Pictured here in about **1925**, from left to right, were **Agnes Sundstrom**, **Vivian Kapeller**, **Doris Sundstrom** and **Abraham E. "Abe" Gronlund** (1891-1941), manager. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*



Dating from about **1925**, the Dry Goods and Grocery Departments of the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.**, following the remodeling include **William Olaf Langren** (1861-1933) (far left), **Mildred Bessey**, **Julia Windell** and **Emma Robichaud**. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** (**William G. Monroe**, president; **Andrew Ostrand**, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; **Abraham E. "Abe" Gronlund** (1891-1941), secretary and manager) was listed as a "Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats,

Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed" was located at 118-122 West B Street in **1925**.

In addition, the following professional and businessmen rented rooms on the upper floor as follows: Rooms 1-3-4, **Frank Otto Logic** (1893-1953), chiropractor; Room 2, **Metropolitan Life Insurance Company**, **P.J. Spehar**, assistant

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manager; Rooms 5-7, **Arthur W. Moe**, chiropractor; Room 6, **Dundon's Actual Business College**, **Richard F. Dundon** (1896-1956) and **Ruth F. Dundon** (1896-1962), proprietors, established in **1908**, "Individual Instruction, Every Graduate is Successful"; Room 8, **G.A. Gustafson**

Company (**Gustaf Andrew Gustafson** (1885-1977), president and treasurer; **Ingrid Marie "Irene" (Rosenquist) Gustafson** (1887-1957), vice-president; **Seth Gustafson** (1888-1972), secretary), building contractors.



The grocery department of the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.**, was well stocked. Dating from the **spring of 1925**, this photograph includes, from left to right, **Adolph P. Nelson** (1870-1947), **Victor Tundd**, **Albert Masty**, **Minnie Coombs**, **Elsie Johnson** and **Leo Raymond Kessler** (1903-1969). *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

FIRE: A fire which started at about 10:45 p.m. on **January 15, 1935**, totally destroyed the Iron Mountain Mercantile Company and three other business establishments. The full account of this disaster appeared in the **January 16, 1935**

edition of *The Iron Mountain News* as follows:

Four business establishments were wiped out and damage estimated between \$90,000 and \$95,000 – including building, stock and fixtures – resulted when fire of

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undetermined origin, starting at about 10:45 o'clock last night, destroyed the **Iron Mountain Mercantile company's** building, West B street. It was the most disastrous fire in this city in many years.

The morning only the walls, steel pillars and girders and two brick chimneys were standing, and at noon eight streams of water were still pouring into the smoldering ruins.

Firemen fought the blaze in a 22-below-zero temperature during the night and early morning.

Besides the Mercantile company's meat and grocery departments, the jewelry partnership of **Walter Flatt** and **Harmon McCarthy**, the **Allyn dress shop** and the **Actual Business college**, located in the building owned by the Mercantile company, were wrecked. Officers of the Mercantile placed their loss by damage to building, stock and fixtures at about \$70,000; the jewelry store and dress shop, between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each, and the Actual Business college, about \$3,000.

Mercantile Fully Covered

The Mercantile damage was fully covered by insurance, **Abe Gronlund**, president of the corporation[,] stated. **Mr. and Mrs. George Allyn**, of the dress shop, estimated their insurance coverage as "little more than half." Flatt and McCarthy this morning said their insurance policies were locked in a safe now buried in the ruins, and were unable to fix their coverage. **R.F. Dundon**, proprietor of the Actual Business college, said he had "very little" insurance, and reckoned his loss as "almost complete."

Quick action of the **Iron Mountain fire department**, assisted by the **Ford Motor company's** equipment, and the added protection of stout, stone walls on either side, saved the **E.J. DeGayner** garage, corner of Carpenter Avenue and B street,

and the **Central M.E. church**, adjacent to the Mercantile building on the east. The east wall of DeGayner's and the west wall of the church were blackened with smoke and heavily caked with ice today, and a small quantity of water had seeped into the garage office. Considerable smoke crept into the garage building, but no serious damage resulted.

All of the cars stored in DeGayner's garage last night, including five new passenger cars, a new truck, some second-hand units and a number of cars left there for overnight storage, were taken out safely last night, and the new cars and those left for over-night storage being taken to the **Northern Battery company's** garage, on East Hughitt street. All of the furniture and most of the fixtures in the DeGayner apartment, over the garage, were taken out, some being moved to the **Iron Mountain Gas company's** office across the corner, and the rest being taken elsewhere for safe-keeping.

Trooper Overcome

Trooper Watkins, of the Iron Mountain detachment of state police, working with **Troopers Carstensen, Young and Gilmer** in removing furniture and fixtures from the DeGayner apartment, and cars from the garage below, was slightly overcome after his third trip into the smoke-filled building, but he was quickly revived. Troopers also were instrumental in salvaging Gronlund's car, stored in the rear of the Mercantile.

Crowds of spectators, attracted by the curling, black smoke which swept over the city, and the flames which leaped high into the air as the blaze reached its peak, stood about watching the fire and the efforts of troopers and others to salvage equipment. Despite the frigid temperature, the intense heat could be felt for a considerable distance and spectators crowded as close as possible for the double purpose of

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watching the spectacle at close range, and to benefit from the heat.

Alarm Turned In

*An unidentified man turned in the alarm at 10:45 o'clock last night, and the crew from number one station, with **Chief Mike Scolatti** [Michael J. Scolatti, Jr. (1901-1981)] in charge, answered it. A call was sent immediately to number two station. At about 1:30 o'clock a truck arrived from the Ford plant with additional hose, and men, in charge of **Hiram Byers**. The Ford firemen*

stayed at the blaze until about 3:30 a.m., but the Ford hose was still in use at noon.

*When the firemen arrived at the scene they found the blaze already well under way, apparently centered in the basement near the rear of the building and behind the **Flatt and McCarthy jewelry**. The Mercantile had a central heating plant, and the basement lay-out included several rooms and compartments, the furnace and boiler room being located at about the point where the blaze was discovered.*



The butcher department of the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Co., Ltd.**, offered a wide variety of meats, kept fresh with refrigeration. Dating from **about 1925**, this photograph shows, from left to right, **Dane Wastin**, **Bill Witynski**, **Leo Raymond Kessler** (1903-1969) and **Charles W. Berglund** (1883-1961). [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

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Eight Streams Working

Hooking onto five hydrants within an area of a block or more in every direction from the building, the firemen soon had eight streams of water playing full force into the structure, and from all sides. In all, about 5,500 feet of hose, including all of the equipment from both city stations and about 900 feet from the Ford plant, were in use at the height of the blaze.

For a time it appeared that the blaze had been partially stifled, and its progress definitely checked. Suddenly, however, the plate-glass window in the front of the **Allyn shop** crashed in, taking with it a rush of air that immediately sent a spiral of red and blue flame leaping skyward. In the next few moments, fire enveloped the interior, and the wave of heat sweeping outward told the full story of that blast of air through the broken store window.

Meanwhile, Gronlund, Mrs. Allyn, Flatt and Dundon had been notified, and all arrived at about the same time. Mr. Allyn was at work at the Ford plant when word reached him.

Removes Cars, Fixtures

DeGayner, learning immediately of the blaze and waiting only long enough to note that it was mounting steadily, enlisted aid in getting the cars out of his garage, and the furniture and fixtures from the living quarters above.

Paul Gingrass [Paul Joseph Gingrass, Sr. (1899-1966)], sheriff, arrived soon after the alarm and joined city and state police in keeping the crowd back.

When it became apparent, shortly after midnight, that the building itself was doomed, the firemen concentrated their efforts on the east, west and rear walls of the structure, and that plan proved effective. At about 1:30 a.m., the second floor of the building, loudly crackling at first as if in warning, crumbled with a roar into

the flaming mass beneath. With that crash went all the equipment of the Actual business [sic – Business] college.

Burns Self Out

Thereafter, despite the eight, full-pressure streams which played steadily into the ruins, the blaze burned itself out and, as the flames died away, only the steel pillars and girders, one half-wrecked brick partition and the two, brick chimneys were silhouetted against the sky. Rows of blackened cans stood out on the steel-shelving which still clung against the west wall of the Mercantile. There was nothing else but black, smoking ashes.

This morning, lines of hose stretched web-like in every direction from the building, much of it, immediately around the structure, submerged in water, slush or solid ice. Weary firemen plodded about, readjusting their lines and warning passersby against the danger of toppling walls. And perched crazily against a pole, in front of the Allyn dress shop, was a badly-dishevelled [sic – disheveled] clothes form, its bright apparel coated with icicles. It was the only article taken from the shop.

It was a busy, almost frantic scene at the DeGayner garage. Volunteers darted back and forth in and out of the building, and cars were shooting frontward and backward out of the south and west doors. Trooper Watkins, on his third trip, brought out a car but collapsed, for a moment, in the seat. He was quickly resuscitated and went back to work. Another trooper dived into the smoke-filled garage at the rear of the Mercantile, for Gronlund's car, backed it half out and the engine stalled. The trooper climbed out the door, scrambled up over the top of the car and dropped down in back, clear of the smoke. The car was pulled to safety.

College to Re-Open

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Only one of the businessmen whose establishments were destroyed could announce any plans for the future this morning. That was **R.F. Dundon**, of the **Actual Business college**, where 22 students had been enrolled. "The business college will definitely be reopened," Dundon said, "—where and when, I can't say. I will find a place somewhere, and the work will go on."

The Actual Business college was established in Iron Mountain in 1908, and had been located in the Mercantile building for the past 14 years. Included in the equipment destroyed last night were 12 typewriters, about 75 desks, tables and chairs, and all of the records. The equipment and fixtures were valued, Dundon said, at about \$3,000. "It's just about a total loss," he added. "There will have to be some financing before I can start up again. I hope that any persons with accounts owing the business college will do what they can to assist."

Total Damage

The Mercantile damage was total, not a single item being saved. Only yesterday, it was learned, an insurance agent had checked the policies held by his company for the Mercantile, and had persuaded Gronlund to add another \$5,000 to his coverage. Several agencies, it was said, shared in the coverage, and adjusters are expected here probably tomorrow to check the loss.

Gronlund was unable to say whether the business will be re-established. The Iron Mountain Mercantile company, formerly a co-operative concern, was incorporated in 1910, but had occupied the Mercantile building for some time previous to that. The officers are **A.E. Gronlund**, vice-president, and **Peter Broullire** [Peter J. Broullire/Broullire, Sr. (1882-1965)],

treasurer. The building, likewise, was owned by the corporation.

Eight employes [sic – employees] of the Mercantile were thrown out of work by last night's blaze.

The **Allyn Dress shop** had occupied store space in the first floor of the building for the past two years, or since the previous costly fire at the DeGayner flats, also at Carpenter and B streets. The loss in stock and fixtures there was estimated at about \$4,500, of which slightly more than half was covered by insurance.

Inventory of the Allyn stock, according to Mr. Allyn, was taken only a few days ago, at which time he had expressed the thought to his wife that more insurance could be carried. Nothing was done about it, however, he added.

No Plans For Future

The Allyn's today announced no plans for the future.

Walter Flatt, for many years a jeweler here, and having been variously located during his business in the city, said today that watch and jewelry-repairing tools owned by him to the value of more than \$1,000 were destroyed. **Harmon McCarthy**, of Vulcan, his partner in the business since the store was located in the Mercantile two months ago, also lost a considerable amount in tools.

All of the gems, watches, etc., as well as insurance papers and other valuables, were locked in the safe, Flatt said. The safe went down when the floor collapsed early this morning and was still in the ruins at noon. Flatt, however, had asked **Anton Miench** (1867-1936), contractor, to remove it as soon as possible, so that he could check up on his insurance coverage. Flatt said he had "five or six" policies, but did not know whether there were all in force. Consequently, he said, he could not even approximately estimate his loss.

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*Flatt's business was destroyed last night on the site adjoining the location in which he first entered the business in Iron Mountain. Thereafter he was located in the new **Wolf** [sic – **Wolfe**] **building** on Stephenson avenue, between B and C street, and, before moving into the Mercantile, in the **Blackstone Taxi building** where he occupied a site, jointly, with **Thor Lieungh**, music dealer and instructor.*

"I haven't any plans for the future," Flatt said this morning. "I won't know how I stand until I can get into the safe and examine the policies there. Unless it's what I hope it is, I may have to look around for a job."

State troopers stayed at the scene until about 5 o'clock this morning. City police and county deputies were still patrolling the area shortly before noon.

Approximately 800,000 gallons of water had been poured into the fire up to noon today, according to the estimates at the city filtration plant.

This address was listed as "vacant" in **1935**, and there was no listing for 116 West B Street in **1939 or 1941-1942**.

History of 118: There were no listings for this address from **1946 through 1969**.

In **1970** the **Modern Bakery**, owned by **Garland Marshall**, was located here. Renamed the **Golden Brown Bakery**, Garland Marshall continued in business here from **1971 through 1974**. In 1974 **Garland and Coretta Marshall** were listed as proprietors.

This address was listed as "vacant" in **1975 and 1976**, and as "no listing" from **1977 through 1980**.

In **1981 and 1982** **Joseph A. "Joe" Stevens** operated **Stevens Decorating** at this address, selling paint and wallpaper. **Amaco Mineral Company**, managed by

Dean Douglas, also did business at this address.

Stevens Decorating was listed at 118 West B Street from **1984 through 1995**. From **1986 through 1989** the **Heart of Country Shoppe** was also in business here, owned by **Joseph A. Stephens** and managed by **Mary Betters**. **Gail Menza** took over as manager in **1990 and 1991**, and in **1992** she operated **The Personal Touch** at this address.

Stevens Decorating moved to 310 South Stephenson Avenue, the former Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Depot, in **1996**.

In **1996 and 1997** this address was listed as "vacant" and there was "no listing" from **1998 through 2000**.

History of 120-122: In **1946** **Joseph "Joe" Safranek** operated **Joe's Eat Mart** at this address.

From **1959 through 1979** **Vollwerth & Company** sold wholesale meat products here. Officers from 1959 through 1975 were **Joe Fisher**, president; **Robert Vollwerth**, vice-president; **George Vollwerth**, secretary. Officers from 1971 through 1979 were **Robert M. Ling**, president; **Donald Fisher**, vice-president; and **Robert Vollwerth II**, secretary-treasurer.

Vollwerth & Company began in the basement of the **Hancock, Houghton County, Michigan**, home of **Richard Vollwerth**, a German immigrant, in 1915. As the quality sausage business grew, Richard was joined by his three sons, **Joseph Fisher**, **George Vollwerth** and **Robert Vollwerth**. As the demand for their sausage increased, the business was relocated to a larger, more modern and efficient facility in the **1920s**.

In the **1930s**, despite the devastating effects of the Great Depression on the local economy, **Vollwerth & Company** continued

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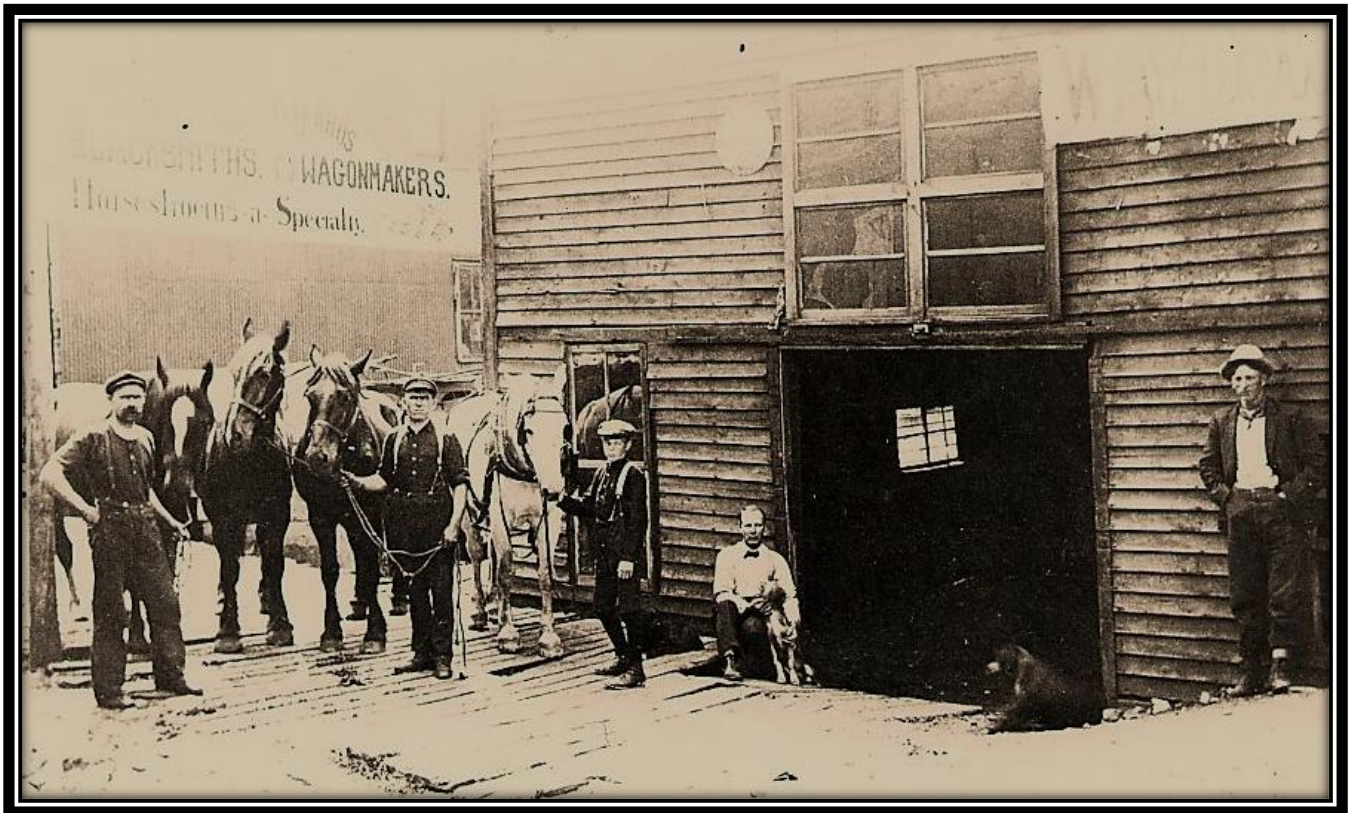
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its expansion as demand for its fine products continued to increase. The company, at this time, opened its first distribution branch in **Iron Mountain**. This facility employed numerous people who handled the distribution of their quality sausage in the western Upper Peninsula.

The family-owned business still produces quality sausages.

From **1982 through 1993** **Stevens Decorating** used this structure for a warehouse.

From **1994 through 2000** there was “no listing” for this site.



The **Beard Brothers Blacksmith & Wagonmakers Shop** was located at **113 East Fleshiem Street**, by **1902**. Pictured, left to right, are **Herb [Herbert] Beard**, **Si [Josiah] Beard**, **Tom Strong [Thomas Allen Strong, Sr. (1870-1954)]** and **Will Clemo [William Henry Clemo (1885-1965)]**. The man at the right is not identified. By **1907** **Josiah Beard's** shop was at the corner of Carpenter Avenue and West B Street. *[Gene Derwinski/Dick Ferris]*

History of 124-126: *[The numbering for this lot varied over the years.]*

There was no listing for this address in **1892-1894**.

By **1902-1903** **Martin Harvey & Company**, a blacksmith and wagon shop, was located here.

Martin Thomas Harvey, Sr. (1876-1959) was a son of **Edward Harvey, Sr. (1847-1917)** and **Mary (Semmons) Harvey (1844-1905)**, both born in Cornwall, England.

In **1907-1908** **Beard's Wagon Works**, owned by **Josiah "Si" Beard (1867-1929)** and located at the northeast corner of West

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B Street and Carpenter Avenue, (listed in the street index as 126 West B Street) provided blacksmithing and horseshoeing, in addition to manufacturing wagons.

Born in Gwenap, Cornwall, England, Josiah came to Iron Mountain in **1889** and was working as a blacksmith for **Sol Noble**, a manufacturer of fine wagons, carriages, sleighs and mining gear at **213 and 215 East Ludington Street** by **1892**.

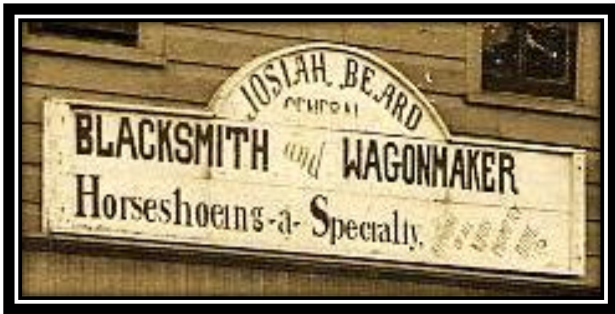
By **1902** **Josiah Beard** and his brother **Herbert “Herb” Beard** (1873-1956) operated the **Beard Brothers Blacksmith & Wagonmakers Shop** at **113 East Fleshem Street**. Another brother, **Fred Beard** (1875-1947), who later lived in Vulcan, may also have worked at the shop. A fourth brother, **Thomas Beard**, apparently remained in England.



Josiah Beard, a blacksmith and wagonmaker, operated his business at **124 West B Street**. This photograph probably dates between **1907 and 1910**. The **northeast corner of Iron Mountain's Carpenter Avenue and West B Street** was the site of numerous transportation-related businesses during the early 1900s. In **1902** **Martin Harvey's** blacksmith and wagon shop was located in this building. By **1907** Josiah Beard had taken over, specializing in blacksmithing, horseshoeing and wagon-making. Note the horseshoe above the wooden half circle above the cornice of the facade. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

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Detail of sign in the above photograph.

An article in the **April 13, 1911** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced the sale of Beard's establishment as follows:

*A new business firm – known as **Freeland Corning & Co.** – closed a deal last Saturday for the purchase of the **Beard blacksmith and wagon shops** at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue. The business will be enlarged so as to include a first-class garage with automobiles for sale and hire. **Josiah Beard**, who is a first-class worker in iron and wood, will remain in the service of the firm. Mr. Corning is a machinist and has had experience in the best shops hereabouts as well as in the construction of automobiles.*



Early automobiles lined **Carpenter Avenue** on the west side of **Gottfred “Guffy” Rudolph Johnson’s Garage, 124 West B Street** in **about 1915**. Pictured from left to right are **Arthur E. “Art” Johnson** (1897-1949), [brother of “Guffy” Johnson], **W. Carlson**, **Bob Dennins**, **Lawrence Contarini** (1896-1926), **Gottfred Rudolph “Guffy” Johnson** (1895-1961), **R. Evans** and **Ernest Emmanuel Lindstrom** (1897-1924). [Gene Derwinski/Dick Ferris]

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In **1913** **Freeland G. Corning** and **William Parent** [**William Joseph Parent, Sr.** (1852-1934)], probably the “& Co.,” operated an automobile garage here as **Corning & Co.**, although the address was erroneously listed as **130 West B Street**.

An article in the **June 10, 1915** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced the establishment of another new automobile firm at this address as follows: **Gottfred Johnson** and **Howard Sandercock** have succeeded to the automobile business of **Charles Rauer**, at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue. The young men have a thorough knowledge of all departments of the automobile business and are first-class machinists. They have held positions with Mr. Rauer for several years. Messrs. Johnson and Sandercock are progressive young men and enjoy the confidence of the community. It is safe to predict that they will make a success of the business and that work entrusted to them will receive prompt attention. The firm also will succeed to the local agency of the famous **Overland** automobile.

The partnership had changed to **Johnson & DeGayner** (**Gottfred “Guffy” Johnson** and **Eugene J. DeGayner**) when the following article appeared in the **May 3, 1917** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*:

Many new automobiles are being sold here this spring and the demand for light delivery trucks is very large. During the past ten days, **Edward G. Kingsford** [**Edward George Kingsford** (1862-1943)], agent for the Ford, has received and sold over sixty cars. He has orders booked for many more. **Johnson & DeGayner** have sold a number of **Overlands** and are expecting three carloads. Nearly a dozen new trucks have appeared on the streets during the past few weeks.

By the **fall of 1920** **Eugene J. DeGayner** (1880-1968) was enlarging his

recently purchased business, as recorded in the following article from the **October 21, 1920** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press*:

Eugene J. De Gaynor [*sic* – **DeGayner**] is one of the few business men who does not propose to be overwhelmed next spring by the influx of new business. Mr. DeGaynor is district agent for the **Dodge** and other automobiles. He recently purchased the building at the corner of West B street and Carpenter avenue that he now occupies as a garage. Mr. DeGaynor has now let the contract to **Tom Stafford** for the immediate erection of an addition at the rear forty-seven by forty-nine feet in size. The present building is also to be remodeled. Work on the addition has commenced.

Further renovations were completed by **December 1924**, as reported in the **December 3, 1924** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* as follows under the headline **NEW SHOW ROOM FOR DODGE AUTOS: Extensive Alterations At DeGayner’s Completed:**

One of the finest auto display rooms in the city has just been finished in the **E.J. DeGayner garage** at the corner of B street and Carpenter avenue. Alterations have been under way for several weeks.

The display room formerly occupied a small part of the front of the building. A room 30 feet square and large enough for four cars, [*sic*] has been built where the entrance to the garage was previously located. The entrance to the garage has been moved to the right of the display room.

The show room is painted white with green trimmings. It is brilliantly lighted at night and sets off effectively the cars on display. The garage has the agency for Dodge automobiles.

By the following spring the **DeGayner Motor Car Agency** was promoting **Graham**

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Brothers trucks, as shown in an article in the **May 9, 1925** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* as follows under the headline **GRAHAM TRUCK FIRST IN CLASS: World's Largest Producers, Figures Received Here Show:**

Official figures received by the DeGayner Motor car agency from Detroit for the first quarter of 1925 show that Graham Brothers rank first in the world in the production and sale of 1 ½ ton trucks.

On the 1 ton and 1 ½ ton truck fields combined there were surpassed in volume only by Ford. "The information may be surprising to the general public," said E.J. DeGayner, Dodge Brothers dealer here[,] "but not to us, nor to those who are familiar with the performance of Graham Brothers Trucks and with their rapid ascendancy in the industry during the last three years.

"Their advance has been without ostentation. It has been a steady, wholesome growth, based entirely upon the truck's performance."

Less than three years ago Graham Brothers were in twentieth position. Now they are manufacturing trucks at the rate of over 100 a day, marketing their entire output through Dodge Brothers dealers. This sales and service advantage of a strong dealer organization, combined with the merit of the truck itself, is regarded as one of the chief reasons for the rapid advance to leadership. Dodge Brothers dealers everywhere are highly regarded and their service facilities are good. Service is an exceedingly important factor in the operation of a truck and business men are not slow to appreciate the advantage of having genuine parts instantly available when needed.

Eugene J. DeGayner (1880-1968), son of **Joseph and Mary (Seymour/Simard) DeGayner**, and **Hazel Mae Oatley** (1883-1959), daughter of **Alva and Lillian**

(Courtright) Oatley, were married March 9, 1899, in Marinette, Marinette County, Wisconsin. They lived in Menominee County, Michigan, for ten years before moving to Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, in 1907 and then to Iron Mountain in 1908.

In **1925 Eugene J. DeGayner** operated his garage at 124 West B Street, sometimes listed as 126 West B Street and 130 West B Street. The DeGayner family, including their son **Ralph Lawrence DeGayner** (1909-1981), lived above the garage in an apartment.

DeGayner & Kesler (Eugene J. DeGayner and Russell A. Kesler) were "Dealers for Dodge and Plymouth Motor Cars and Dodge Trucks" here by **1935** and also did "General Automobile Repairing." The business continued to be listed at the same address as the **DeGayner & Kesler Garage** in the **1939** and **1941-1942** city directories

Eugene J. DeGayner operated the Dodge garage for 35 years and then became part-owner and manager of the **Iron Mountain Gas Company**.

In **1945 Russell A. Kesler** bought out **Eugene J. DeGayner**, and in **1946** the business was listed as **Kesler's Garage**. Also listed as residing at this address in 1946 were **Lewis Rector**, chiropractor, and **Otylia Marvin**. **Jack Webb [Jack E. "John" Webb** (1918-2008)] operated the **Jack Webb Service Station** at 124 West B Street in 1946.

Russell Ambrose Kesler (1895-1959), son of **James and Katherine (Kiley) Kesler**, was listed as a lumberman in the **1925** city directory, living at 1004 West B Street with his wife **Jennie Joan (Jacobson) Kesler** (1893-1982), daughter of **Herman and Anna (Hendrickson) Jacobson**. Russell and Jennie were married December 21, 1921, in

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Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, came to Iron Mountain

Shortly after the couple's arrival in Iron Mountain Russell became engaged in the home construction business with Herman Jacobson (1888-1970), probably his father-in-law, and in **1928** he became a partner with Jacobson in the **Kesler-Jacobson Garage**, automobile dealers.

Russell A. Kesler died unexpectedly following surgery on January 28, 1959, in Rochester, Minnesota. In **1959** **Marshall L. Kesler**, son of **Russell A. and Jennie Joan (Jacobson) Kesler**, was listed as owner and manager of **Kesler Motors**, dealers in Dodge automobiles, and **Francis Ryan** was in charge of sales. By **1961** Marshall L. Kesler was listed as proprietor of Kesler Motors.

In **1963** **Twin City Cab**, operated by **Wayne Arthur Goulette** (1934-1990), ran his taxi company from this address.

There was "no listing" for this address between **1964 and 1966**.

Erickson Oil Products operated a gasoline station here from **1967 through 1998**. Managers included **Barry P. Gianunzio** (1942-2019), 1967-1969; **Warren L. Gianunzio**, 1970-1971; **Randall E. Tarsi**, 1972-1973; **Gary L. Tarsi**, 1974-1978; **Mark Spanton**, 1979-1980; **Charles B. "Chuck" Smith**, 1981-1984; **Jeff Mott**, 1985-1986; **Dean Chartier**, 1987-1988; **Steve Jensen**, 1989; **John Grenier**, 1990; **Chris Clement**, 1991-1992; and **Dave Miller**, 1993-1998.

From **1986 to 1992** the station was listed as **Erickson Freedom**. "Full service" was advertised from 1985 through 1992.

From 1993 through 1998 the station was identified as Erickson Oil Products.

In **1999 and 2000** there was "no listing."

118-122 West B Street

The two-story brick and stone **Spencer Block**, located at 118-122 West B Street was constructed by **John Thomas Spencer, Sr.** (1864-1943). The edifice had four stores on the ground floor and from six to eight offices and a small hall or auditorium on the second floor.

In the **April 2, 1891** edition of Iron Mountain's weekly newspaper, *The Iron Range*, **John Thomas Spencer, Sr.**, advertised: *Stores for Rent. Also basements, several offices and a club room suitable for societies in Spencer's new block will be ready for occupancy on or before May 1.*

Another article which appeared initially in the *Crystal Falls Clipper*, but was reprinted in the **June 4, 1891** edition of *The Iron Range* indicated there were problems with **Spencer's new block**, both structurally and financially, as follows:

As there is a skeleton in every household, so too is there an eye sore in every town – a blot upon its otherwise fair escutcheon, which causes every stranger to ask annoying questions of the citizens, and make the latter "swearing mad" whenever – which happens every day – said eye sore obtrudes itself on their vision. Iron Mountain's eye sore is the "Spencer Block" nearly opposite the "Commercial" [Commercial Hotel, later the Milliman Hotel, later the Dickinson Hotel]. It was started by a man who had more capital in his head than in his pocket, is (so far as it is completed) the skeleton of what would be a fine structure of brown sand stone [sic – sandstone] if it had a solid foundation to rest on and a solid bank account to draw upon for the carrying out of its projector's design. Instead, as we overheard a gentleman's remark last Sunday, "it has a swamp under it, a heavy mortgage on top

THE SPENCER BLOCK

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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

of it, a rickety network of flimsy timber work inside of it, and a poor outlook for ever becoming anything but a settling, crumbling, tumble-down ruin all 'round it." It was started to boom real estate on the avenue which its presence now disfigures, and the circumstance is really a pity, for that avenue is the most favorably situated for the building of a fine business street of any within the corporate limits of Iron Mountain. –Crystal Falls Clipper

Five months later an article in the **December 3, 1891** edition of *The Iron Range* indicated the Spencer Block was still under construction, and gave a construction progress report for buildings throughout the city during a spell of pleasant weather as follows:

*THIS weather is delightful for those who still have building operations on their hands, and is being made the most of by the contractors who are erecting the **Spencer block** on B street, the **Fisher block** and **Dr. Crowell's** handsome residence on Ludington street and **Woodward's** residence on C street. The latter is being remodeled and made into a more pretentious and convenient dwelling, and Lawyer Woodward will have a very handsome and comfortable home when it is finished. The granite walls of Dr. Crowell's residence are finished and the second story is now well under way.*

However, a week later an article in the **December 10, 1891** edition of *The Iron Range* noted construction problems with the **Spencer Block** which were reported as follows:

*ILL luck seems to follow whoever attempts to erect the **Spencer block** on B street. The first contractor, after partly rebuilding the west wall left it in such shape that it had to be torn down and rebuilt, and now it will have to be partly torn down and rebuilt again. Some bad work was done on*

*the rear wall by one of the masons, which escaped the notice of the contractor and the heavy rain of last Thursday night caused this portion of the wall to fall, and in falling it sprung the west wall so it will have to be partly taken down and rebuilt. **Noble & Benson** have gone bravely to work to repair the damage and we hope they will meet with no further ill luck.*

In Bunn & Simmons' *Iron Mountain City Directory 1892-94*, **James R. Spencer** was listed as a confectioner, located at 102 West Brown Street and residing at 722 West C Street.

His younger brother, **John T. Spencer**, was listed as a "dealer in fruits and vegetables, provisions, confectionery and notions" at **118 West B Street**, where he also resided. John T. Spencer also had another business location at 321 Stephenson Avenue at that time.

Four years later, an item appeared in the columns of the **June 11, 1896** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* as follows:

*There was an impromptu dancing party in the **Spencer block hall** last Monday evening, attended by about twenty couples. The music was furnished by a wandering Italian orchestra, and was of a high order. A very pleasant evening was spent.*

Exactly when the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** was formed has not been determined, but it was listed at 118-122 West B Street, the **Spencer Block**, in the 1902-1903 *Directory of the Cities of Iron Mountain and Norway and Villages of Quinnesec and Vulcan, Mich., with a List of the Residents of Niagara, Wis.* **Alex LaViolette** was manager at that time.

In this same directory, **John T. Spencer** was listed as the manager of the **Iron Mountain Land & Iron Company**, and his older brother **James R. Spencer** also was connected with this company. Their advertisement appeared on the back cover

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of this city directory, noting: MINES AND MINING INTERESTS A SPECIALTY – DEALERS IN REAL ESTATE, FARMING, TIMBER, IRON AND COAL LANDS – NEW AND SECOND-HAND MINING MACHINERY FOR SALE.

In *J.W. Shannon & Co's Iron Mountain Directory 1905-06*, the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** was listed at 122 West B Street with **John Carlson** serving as manager. **James P. [sic] Spencer** was also listed as a lawyer with an office in Room 3 of the First National Bank building and residing at 722 West C Street. Brother **John Spencer** was listed as an explorer, residing at 414 West Fleshiem Street.

In the *Inter-State Directory Company's Directory of Iron Mountain and Norway and Dickinson County Gazetteer For the Years 1907-1908*, the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society**, dealing in general merchandise, was listed at 118-124 West B Street with **John Carlson** still serving as manager. In this same directory **James R. Spencer** was listed as an attorney in Office 13 on the second floor of the First National Bank building, still residing at 722 West C Street with his wife, **Kate I.** Brother **John T. Spencer** was still listed as an explorer, living with his wife **Mary** at 206 Iron Mountain Avenue.

Sometime in **1906** **John T. Spencer** and/or his brother **James R. Spencer** apparently lost ownership of the **Spencer Block** to the **Marquette Savings Bank**.

An article in the **January 24, 1907** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* announced the stockholders of the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** had decided to purchase the **Spencer Block** from the **Marquette Savings Bank**, authorizing its board of directors to "enter upon the necessary negotiations."

This article continued with the following information:

*The Spencer block was erected about sixteen years ago by **Capt. John T. Spencer**. It is a two-story brick and stone building and has a front on West B street of one hundred and twenty feet. It contains four store rooms on the ground floor. Three of the stores are occupied by the Co-Operative Society – one as a meat market, the second contains general merchandise, the third as a general supplyhouse [sic – supply house], and the fourth is doing duty as a **sample-room for the Milliman House**. On the second floor there are six or eight office rooms and a small hall.*

It is probable that the Society will occupy the store now doing duty as a sample room, and engage in the dry goods and clothing business. The business of the concern has reached such large proportions under the present management that additional room was absolutely necessary.

In the **September 3, 1908** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* a brief article announced a new manager for the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society** as follows:

***James W. Thompson** has been appointed manager of the stores of the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative society**, succeeding **John Carlson**, who resigned and retired last Tuesday. Mr. Thompson has had experience in the position, having acted as manager several years ago.*

On Monday, February 28, and Tuesday, March 1, the Iron Mountain Co-Operative Society moved toward reorganization, as outlined in an article in the **March 3, 1910** edition of the *Iron Mountain Press* as follows:

*A movement is on foot to re-organize the **Iron Mountain Co-Operative society** under the limited liability law of Michigan. With this object in view, a meeting of the stockholders was held last Monday night*

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and also on Tuesday morning. A large number of the stockholders were present and were unanimously [sic – unanimously] in favor of the re-organization. It is expected that the capital stock will be increased and the standing of the corporation placed on a more substantial basis. Many shares of stock in the new corporation have already been subscribed and it is anticipated that the limited number of shares now for sale will soon be taken Up [sic – up]. under [sic – Under] the new arrangement each share of stock, and not each share-holder, will be entitled to a vote.

Less than three months later the *Iron Mountain Press* – in its **June 9, 1910** edition – reported:

*The **Iron Mountain Co-Operative society** has been succeeded by the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Co., Limited**. The latter company assumes the business and liabilities of the society. The organization of the Mercantile Co. was perfected last Friday with the following officers: President, **Adolph Anderson**, secretary, **John H. Holland**; treasurer, **John H. Hitchens**. The board of managers is composed of the above named officials and **William E. Jayne** and **Henry Trepanier**. The capital stock of the company is \$36,000. **James W. Thompson** will continue as manager of the business of the stores.*

The **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.**, was listed in the *Directory of the Cities of Iron Mountain and Norway and Dickinson County with a List of Residents of Homestead, Wisconsin* published in **1913**, occupying **116-124 West B Street** and selling general merchandise. **Adolph Anderson** was the president, **Charles A. Hogg**, secretary, and **Axel E. Nelson**, manager.

In **late April 1924**, **William G. Monroe**, chairman of the Board of Directors of the

Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd., announced a \$25,000 improvement plan for the company which would begin within thirty days.

According to Monroe, increased business at the store, managed by **A.E. Gronlund**, necessitated the alteration and building program. In addition to extensive remodeling within the store, a large warehouse and garage would be erected.

At the time the business practically occupied three separate stores. Partitions were removed between the three stores, and the quarters were enlarged to include the store which had formerly been occupied by **Jacobs' jewelry**. The remodeled store area was 70 x 90 feet.

A refrigeration plant was installed in the meat market. The article in the **April 24, 1924** edition of the *Iron Mountain News* describing the remodeling of the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company, Ltd.** noted:

During rush hours butchers are unable to handle the trade as fast as is desired but this will be changed with the addition of glass refrigerator counters in which may be placed meats already cut. In this manner, the meat can be prepared in advance without any danger of waste or spoilage.

The newspaper article also stated that the single-story warehouse would be constructed of either brick or stone and would measure 40 x 65 feet.

The fireproof warehouse would be of either brick or stone construction, one story in height and would measure 40x65 feet, "large enough to store a quantity of merchandise." A garage large enough to accommodate nine trucks would also be constructed, as well as a barn for teams of horses.

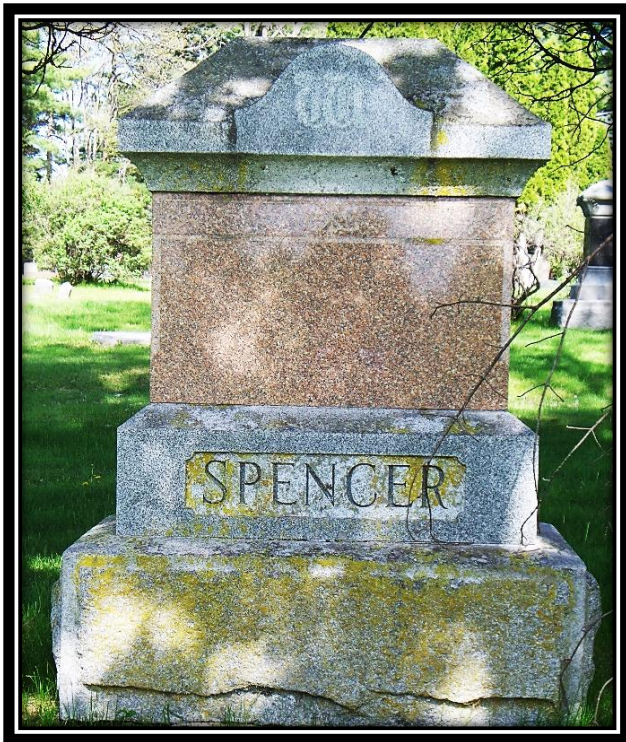
In *Polk's Iron Mountain and Dickinson County Directory 1925*, the **Iron Mountain Mercantile Company Company, Ltd.** was

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listed as a “Department Store, Dry Goods, Groceries, Meats, Hardware, Crockery, Flour and Feed” located at **118-122 West B Street**. Officers were **William G. Monroe**, president; **Andrew Ostrand**, of Crystal Falls, Michigan, treasurer; and **Abraham E. Gronlund**, secretary and manager.

THE FAMILY OF JOHN SPENCER (1834-1917) AND MATHILDA (SPENCE) SPENCER (1828-1907)



James R. Spencer, Jr., purchased Lot 43 in the Moghkoma Section of Iron Mountain's Cemetery Park on May 18, 1903. John Thomas Spencer purchased Lot 23 in the Moghkoma Section of Iron

Mountain's Cemetery Park on May 25, 1903.

SPENCER, JOHN T.

[Iron Mountain Cemetery Park, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan: Burials on Moghkoma, Lot 42, purchased 25 May 1903. Dates are burial dates and numbers are grave numbers. Relationships are to the owner of the graves.]

- 1 – **John Thomas Spencer, Sr.** [born December 4, 1864; died July 6, 1943], July 9, 1943, owner
- 2 – **Mary Collins (Walker) Spencer** [born November 1874; died 1957], May 15, 1957, wife
- 3 – **Florence May “Flora” (Spencer) Contarini** [born May 14, 1897; died December 1, 1944], December 5, 1944, age 47, daughter
- 4 – **Winston L. Spencer** [born May 20, 1910; died December 1977], December 23, 1977, age 66
- 5 – **James William Spencer** [born December 30, 1894; died October 27, 1899], originally buried in the Quinnesec Cemetery; reburied in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park, May 25, 1903, age 5, son
- 6 – **Ruth Spencer** [born 1893; died 1916], September 13, 1916, age 23, daughter
- 7 – **Mathilda (Spencer) Spencer** [born November 28, 1828; died June 21, 1907], June 21, 1907, age 78, mother

The **Spencer** family traced its roots to England. The grandfather of James R. and John Thomas Spencer, **James Spencer**, was born in the parish of Riston, Yorkshire, England, and spent his 90 years of life in his native country, according to information in the obituary of James R. Spencer.

John Spencer, a son of James and Jane Spencer, was also a native of England, born at Market Gate in Beverley, a market town in East Riding, Yorkshire, on

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March 2, 1834. He married **Mathilda Spence** at Goodmanham, Yorkshire, England, on **October 24, 1858**. Matilda (Spence) Spencer was born in **1828** in Hull, East Riding, Yorkshire, England.



*John Spencer
March 2, 1834 – 1917*



*Mathilda (Spence) Spencer
1828 – 1907*

Their son **James R. Spencer** was born **May 21, 1862**, in Hull, East Riding, Yorkshire, England.

Hull, officially Kingston upon Hull, is a city and unitary authority in the East Riding of Yorkshire, England, located on the River Hull at its junction with the Humber estuary, 25 miles inland from the North Sea.

A second son, **John Thomas Spencer**, was born **December 4, 1864**, in Beverley, Yorkshire, England.

In the English and Wales Census for **1871**, **John Spencer**, head of the household, 37 years of age, born in Yorkshire, a laborer, was living with his wife and two sons in Brotton, West Riding, Yorkshire, England. His wife, **Matilde [sic – Mathilda] Spencer** was 41 years of age, born in Yorkshire; son **James R. Spencer** was 8 years of age, born in Yorkshire; and son **John Thomas Spencer** was six years of age, born in Yorkshire. James Short, a 31-year-old lodger born in Yorkshire, was also listed as a part of this household.

John and Mathilda immigrated to the United States in **1879**, according to James R. Spencer's obituary, locating first in **Norway, Michigan**, and after a few months moving to **Iron Mountain, Michigan**, where John worked for several years at the **Ludington Mine**, and later at the **Chapin Mine**. He was later engaged in farming in **Menominee County, Michigan**.

In the **1902-1903** city directory a man named **John Spencer**, living at **601 West C Street, Iron Mountain**, worked as a laborer.

In the **1905-1906** city directory a man named **John Spencer** was listed as the owner of his residence at **519 West Fleshim Street**. **John Spencer** [probably John Thomas Spencer, Sr.], an explorer, lived at **414 West Fleshim Street**.

In the **1907-1908** city directory a man named **John Spencer** was again listed as residing at **519 West Fleshim Street**. **John T. Spencer**, the explorer, lived with his wife **Mary** at **206 Iron Mountain Street**.

In the **1913** city directory, **John Spencer, Sr.**, was listed as residing at **519 West Fleshim Street** which was also the residence of **John T. and Mary Spencer**. John T. Spencer was a dealer in real estate and mineral lands.

John Spencer, son of **Joseph Spencer** and a widower and retired iron ore miner,

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died **May 21, 1917**, at the age of 83. John hanged himself at his residence, 519 West Fleshiem Street, Iron Mountain. He is buried in the Spencer lot at Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Parents **John and Mathilda (Spence) Spencer** and sons and their wives **James R. and Kate Isabel (Wardel) Spencer**, and **John Thomas and Mary Collins (Walker) Spencer, Sr.**, are all buried in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park. All three couples were born in England and emigrated to the United States.

*Iron Mountain Press, Thursday, **June 27, 1907**: Mrs. John Spencer [Mathilda (Spence) Spencer], a resident of Iron Mountain since **1880**, died at the family home on West Fleshiem street last Friday morning, after a short illness. The funeral was held on Sunday. Mrs. Spencer was nearly seventy-nine years of age, and was a native of Hull, England. She is survived by a husband and two sons, Capt. John T. and James R. Spencer. Mrs. Spencer possessed many endearing traits of character and had a wide circle of friends.*

JOHN THOMAS SPENCER, SR. (1864-1943) AND MARY (WALKER) SPENCER (1874-1957)

John Thomas Spencer, Sr., son of **John Spencer** (1834-1917) and **Mathilda (Spence) Spencer** (1828-1907), was born **December 4, 1864**, in Beverly, North Riding, Yorkshire, England. Beverly was a market town, civil parish and county town of

East Riding in Yorkshire, England, near the east coast of the North Sea.

Spencer was educated in Roslyn Villa Boys' Academy in Saltburn-by-the-Sea, a seaside resort in the Tees Valley region of the northeast of England in the County of North Yorkshire.

John Thomas Spencer, Sr. emigrated to the United States, arriving on **September 20, 1880**, and settling in **Iron Mountain**, where he lived for the remainder of his life.

After spending many years as a practical miner, shift boss and underground superintendent, **John Thomas Spencer, Sr.**, started his own business, prospecting iron ore and developing iron ore deposits on the **Menominee Iron Range**. During the 50 years, he was active in the mining business, he discovered and placed in operation many successful iron mining properties.

John Thomas Spencer, Sr., married **Mary Collins Walker** (1874-1957), daughter of **Abraham "Abram" Walker** (1837-1923), on **July 24, 1891**, in **Iron Mountain**.

They were the parents of eight children, all born in Iron Mountain: **Mrs. Lawrence (Florence May "Flora" Spencer) Contarini** (1897-1944), **John T. Spencer III** (1899-1960), **Robert Willard Spencer** (June 15, 1904-September 3, 1904), **Mrs. James (Dorothy Ann Spencer) Browning** (1902-1999), **Emerson D. Spencer** (1906-1985), **Mrs. Earl Clifford (Grace Beverly Spencer) Meyers** (1909-1982) and **Winston L. Spencer** (1910-1977).

In the **1900** U.S. Census **John Spenser [sic – Spencer]**, 36, was listed as the head of household, living in Wards 1-2, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan. Born in December 1864, in England, he immigrated to the United States in 1880.

His wife, **Mary Spenser [sic – Spencer]**, was born in November 1874, in

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England. She immigrated to the United States in 1880, and the estimated year of her marriage was 1892 [sic]. She was the mother of four children, three of whom were living.

Their living children were daughter **Alice R. Spenser [sic – Spencer]**, aged 8, born in Michigan; daughter **Flora Spenser [sic – Spencer]**, aged 3, born in Michigan; and son **Jonnie Spenser [sic – Spencer]**, aged 1, born in Michigan.

Also residing in the John Thomas Spenser household in **1900** were:

John Spenser [sic – Spencer], father, 66 years old, born in March 1834, in England, immigrated to the United States in 1875. He and his wife married in 1858.

Matilda [sic – Mathilda] Spenser [sic – Spencer], mother, 72 years old, born in December 1828, in England, had been married to her husband for 42 years. She was the mother of four children, two of whom were living.

John Thomas Spenser died in his home at 411 East C Street on **July 6, 1943**, and is buried in Cemetery Park.

His brother, the late **James R. Spenser**, died five years ago **July 4, 1938**, in Kingsford, Michigan. He was born **May 21, 1862**, in England. He was married at the time of his death.

*Iron Mountain Press, Thursday, **July 28, 1898**, page 1, column 3: **Supt. John T. Spenser** had a narrow escape from death by bullet at Lake Antoine...gun in hands of small boy...*

*Iron Mountain Press, Thursday, **November 2, 1899**: Born to **Mr. and Mrs. John T. Spenser** on Tuesday last, a son [John T. Spenser III].*

*Iron Mountain Press, Thursday, **November 2, 1899**: **Willie [James William Spenser]**, born **December 30, 1894**; died **October 27, 1899**], the bright **five-year-old***

***son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Spenser**, died last Friday at **St. George Hospital**. The little fellow received an injury to the right leg some time ago. Before it completely healed it was injured again. This last injury resulted in bones becoming affected and his death caused by blood poisoning...*

*Iron Mountain Press, Thursday, September **10, 1903**, page 1, column 6: **Wood Block** sold by Hoose & Eaton to **John T. Spenser**...consideration \$22,000.*

*Iron Mountain Press, Thursday, **March 15, 1906**, page 1, column 4: Last Tuesday, the brick building known as the **Wood Block** fronting on **Stephenson Avenue** and **East Ludington street** was sold by **Capt. John T. Spenser** to the **First National Bank**, the consideration being in the neighborhood of \$22,000. Possession was given at once...*

*Iron Mountain Press, Thursday, **March 17, 1910**:*

New Iron Company.

***Capt. John T. Spenser** has left for Cleveland, where he will assist in the organization of the **Independent Iron company**. **Capt. Spenser** has been offered the position of general manager of the mining and exploratory operations of the new concern and tells The Press he has decided to accept the appointment. The company is composed of Cleveland and Detroit capitalists and we understand has secured options on large tracts of mineral lands on the Menominee, Marquette and Mesaba ranges. It is expected that extensive exploratory work will be commenced by the company in the near future.*

*The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume ___, Number ___ [Tuesday, **July 6, 1943**], page ___, column ___*

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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

Prominent Mining Man Died Today

John Thomas Spencer, 78, widely known in mining circles of the Upper Peninsula, died at 11:30 this morning at his home, 411 East C street.

Mr. Spencer underwent an operation in Chicago last October, and never fully recovered.

He was born **Dec. 4, 1864**, in Beverly, England, and came to the United States on Sept. 20, 1880, settling in Iron Mountain, where he had since lived.

He was wedded **July 24, 1891**, to **Mary Colling** [sic – **Mary Collins Walker** 1874-1957)], who survives him. He also leaves the following six children, all of Iron Mountain: **Mrs. Florence Contarini**, **John T. Spencer, Jr.**, **Mrs. James Browning**, **Emerson Spencer**, **Miss Grace Spencer** and **Winston Spencer**, and eight grandchildren.

His only brother, the late **James R. Spencer**, died five years ago July 4.

Mr. Spencer was prominently associated with a number of early-day mining enterprises in this and other sections of the peninsula.

Educated in England

Mr. Spencer was educated in Roslyn Villa Boys' academy, Salt-Bern, By the Sea, England. Arriving here, he spent many years as a practical miner, shift boss and underground superintendent and then started business on his own, prospecting ore, and developing and operating iron ore deposits on the Menominee range. During the 50 years he was active in the mining business, he discovered and placed in operation many successful iron mine properties.

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume ___, Number ___ [Wednesday, **July 7, 1943**], page ___, column ___

JOHN T. SPENCER

Funeral services for **John T. Spencer**, 78, well known mining man, who died yesterday morning at his home, 411 East C street, will be held at 1:30 Friday afternoon at the Erickson and Son mortuary. The Rev. P.L. Lomas will officiate. Burial will be in Cemetery park.



John Thomas Spencer
December 4, 1864 – July 6, 1943



Mary Collins (Walker) Spencer
1874 – 1957

James William Spencer, son of **John and Mary (Collins) Spencer**, was born in **1895** in Michigan and died at 612 Wells Street at the age of 4 on **October 27, 1899**,

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in Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, and was buried in Quinnesec Cemetery.

Emerson Spencer, son of John T. and Mary Spencer, was born **September 9, 1906**, in Iron Mountain. He died **December 20, 1985**, at the Florence Villa Nursing Home, Florence, Wisconsin. He was survived by his wife, **Alvina**, and two sons; a sister, **Mrs. Dorothy Browning**.

Mrs. Earl Clifford (Grace Beverly Spencer) Meyers (1909-1982), daughter of **John T. Spencer and Mary Collins (Walker) Spencer**, was buried **March 2, 1982**, age 75.

JAMES R. SPENCER (1862-1938) AND KATE ISABEL (WARDLE) SPENCER (1863-1953)

The Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 18, Number 71 [Tuesday, **July 5, 1938**], page 2, columns 3-4

**JAMES SPENCER,
FORMER JUSTICE,
TAKEN BY DEATH**

Well-Known Resident Of City Succumbs To Heart Troubles

James R. Spencer, aged 76, resident of Iron Mountain for 59 years, justice of the peace for 25 years and the city's first municipal judge, died at 9:45 o'clock last night at the home of his daughter, Mrs.

Herman G. Berg, 713 Cass avenue, following a lingering illness with heart troubles. He had been confined to his bed since Memorial day, May 30.

A native of England, the former judge was born **May 21, 1862**, in the city of Hull, Yorkshire, a son of **John Spencer**. His grandfather, **James Spencer**, was born in the parish of Riston, Yorkshire, England, of substantial English ancestry and spent his 90 years of life in his native country.

John Spencer, father of James R., emigrated to America in **1879** and located first at Norway, Mich. He remained there only a few months and then moved to Iron Mountain, where he worked for several years at the old Ludington mine, later at the Chapin Mine, and was subsequently engaged in farming in Menominee county.

Worked As Sailor

At the age of 16 having completed his studies in the public schools, **James R. Spencer** followed various occupations and finally embarked as a sailor on a British merchant vessel and spent about four years on different ships. While sailing the sea he visited different cities in France and made one voyage to Australia.

That voyage required exactly 11 months and six days – a hazardous trip on a sailing vessel around the southwest coast of Africa. He often related many interesting stories of that journey.

Mr. Spencer was subsequently employed for a time as a street car [sic – streetcar] conductor in his native county, New Castle-on-Tyne, and in **1882** he emigrated to America, coming directly to Iron Mountain, where, for number of years, he was employed at the mines.

Going to Ypsilanti in **1889** Mr. Spencer took a course of study at Cleary's Business college, and after his return to this city was, for a time, in company with his brother, engaged in lumbering and stone quarrying.

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He erected a building here known as the **Spencer block** and was the first in this vicinity to use native stone for building purposes.

Other Occupations

Going to Crystal Falls in **1891**, Mr. Spencer was employed at the mines for a year and a half, after which he was located at Coal City, Ill., for a similar period of time. After spending some time with the Fox Solid Pressed Steel company at Joliet, Ill., Mr. Spencer located in Chicago, where for about two years he was in the employ of the Deering Harvester company, first in the engineering department and later in the shipping department.

He afterward clerked for a short time in a department store in Chicago, subsequently becoming buyer for the Gould company. During his years in Chicago Mr. Spencer used his leisure time to study law, spending one vacation at the Illinois College of Law, and in **May, 1899**, was graduated from the Chicago Law school.

Admitted to the Illinois bar, he practiced for a brief time in Chicago, coming then to Iron Mountain. On **March 23, 1903**, he was admitted to practice before the supreme court of the state of Michigan.

In **1905** Mr. Spencer was named justice of the peace in the city and served in that capacity for 25 years, during most of this time having his office in the former Commercial bank building. On **January 1, 1930**, he took office as judge of Iron Mountain's first municipal court, set up under the new city charter. He served one term of six years, and was succeeded by **William F. Bolognesi**, incumbent.

Life Member of Masonic Lodge

He was also the first circuit court commissioner in Dickinson county. He was a life member of the Masonic lodge of Iron Mountain and was likewise affiliated with the Eastern Star, the Knights of Pythias and

the Sons of St. George. He served as secretary of the Masonic lodge for 12 years, after which he was made a life member in recognition of his long and active membership.

Mr. Spencer attended the Central M.E. church and for several years was secretary of the Bible class. He represented the United States Fire Insurance company in Iron Mountain for 27 years, and at the end of his 25th year of association with that company received a silver engraved certificate marking a quarter-century of service.

He was wedded in England to **Kate Isabel Wardle**, who was born in Sunderland, County Durham, England, a daughter of Adam and Isabelle Wardle.

Besides his widow one son, **Benjamin W. Spencer**, of Quinnesec, and the daughter, **Mrs. Berg**, survive. There are three grandchildren, **James Wardle Spencer** and **Stanley W. Spencer**, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Spencer, and **James Spencer** [sic – **Berg**], son of Mr. and Mrs. Berg.

James R. Spencer, son of John and Mathilda (Spence) Spencer, was born **May 21, 1862**, in Hull, Yorkshire, England.

James R. Spencer married **Kate Isabel Wardle** (1863-1953), daughter of **Adam and Isabel Wardel**, in England before emigrating to Iron Mountain in **1882**. **Kate Isabell Wardle** was born in **May 1863**, in Sunderland, Durham, England. **Kate I. Spencer** [**Kate Isabel Wardle**] was buried **January 26, 1953**, at the age of 89

In the **1900** U.S. Census **James R. Spencer**, 37, was listed as the head of household, living in Precinct 1, Lake View, Ward 1, Chicago, Illinois. Born in May 1863, in England, he immigrated to the

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By William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation Historian

United States in 1880, but was married in about 1885 in England.

His wife, **Kate I. Spencer**, was born in May 1863, in England. She married in about 1885 in England and immigrated to the United States in 1887. She was the mother of four children, two of whom were living.

Their living children were **Benjamin William "Ben" Spencer** [born **February 25, 1893**; died **February 25, 1951**; married **Emma J. Hooper** in **1915** (born **October 23, 1895**; died **May 1, 1982**)], aged 7, born in Michigan, and **Ruth I. Spencer**, aged 5, born in Illinois.

James R. Spencer died on Monday, **July 4, 1938**, at the home of his daughter, **Mrs. Herman Gustave** (1899-1986) (**Ruth Isabel Spencer**) **Berg** (born **September 14, 1895**; died **December 2, 1988**), 713 Cass Avenue, Kingsford, Michigan.



James R. Spencer
May 21, 1862 – July 4, 1938



Kate Isabel (Wardle) Spencer
1863 – 1953

ABRAHAM "ABRAM"
WALKER (1837-1923)

AND

SUSAN (KINNEY) CAMPBELL
WALKER (1848-1933)

[second wife]

Daughter of Abraham Walker
MARY COLLINS (WALKER)
SPENCER (1874-1957)

[Abraham Walker and Mary Collins (Walker) Spencer, wife of John Tyler Spencer, Sr., are buried in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park. Susan (Kinney) Campbell Walker is buried in the Iron River Cemetery, Iron County, Michigan, with her first husband, Kenneth Campbell, Sr.]

*Iron Mountain News, Tuesday, **March 20, 1923***

ABRAHAM WALKER DIES OF OLD AGE

Pioneer Succumbs After Illness of Four Days Duration

Abraham Walker, 88, died at his home, 512 East D street, this morning at 2:30 o'clock.

He was born in Middleborough, Yorkshire, England and came to Iron Mountain in 1882.

He was employed with the Chapin iron ore mine.

*He married twice, his first wife dying 20 years ago. His second wife, **Susan**, survives along with 2 daughters, **Mrs. John T. Spencer** and **Mrs. Fred Mitchell**. His son, **Thomas**, lives in Australia.*

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A funeral announcement was printed in Wednesday, **March 21, 1923**, in the *Iron Mountain News*.

Abraham Walker (removed from Quinnesec Cemetery) and **Mrs. Abraham Walker** (removed from Quinnesec Cemetery), **father-in-law and mother-in-law of John T. Spencer**, are buried in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Abraham “Abram” Walker

Birth: **April 1837**, Middlesbrough Unitary Authority, North Yorkshire, England

Death: **March 20, 1923** (aged 85), Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, USA

Burial: Iron Mountain Cemetery Park, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan

Mary Jane (Walker) Spencer

Christened: **November 20, 1874**, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England [Saint Botolph, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England]

Father: William Walker

Mother: Mary

Mary Collins Walker Spencer

Birth: **November 1874**, England

Death: **1957** (aged 82–83)

Burial: Iron Mountain Cemetery Park, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan
Moghkoma

OBITUARY *Iron River Reporter*, **July 11 1933**:

Gaastra

Susan Walker Passes Sunday
83-Year Old Woman Died At Home of
Son, Kenneth Campbell

*Mrs. Susan Walker, 83, died Sunday morning [July 9, 1933] at the home of her son, **Kenneth D. Campbell** of Gaastra. Death is attributed to old age.*

*Mrs. Walker was born in 1850 in Carleton county, Canada. In **1871** she was married to **Kenneth Campbell, Sr.** of Carleton county.*

Shortly after marrying, Mrs. Walker and her husband moved to Menominee, Michigan. They lived there for one year before coming to Iron county where they resided about fifteen years.

*Mr. Campbell died at his home in Spring Valley, which is now known as Gaastra. Mrs. Walker moved to Iron Mountain, where she met and married **Mr. Walker**. Her second husband has been dead for the past fifteen years.*

Residing for a few years in Iron Mountain, Mrs. Walker returned to this district to make her home with her son here. The deceased has lived here for the past nine years.

*Mrs. Walker was a sister of the late **John Kinney**, Gaastra pioneer, who died a number of years ago.*

*The deceased is survived by five sons, **Kenneth** of Gaastra, **John** of Alberta, Canada, **Richard** of Maine, The **Rev. H. Campbell** of Vermont, and **Wesley** of Long Beach, California, and one daughter, **Mrs. Gaunse Gallup** of Sunburst, Mont.*

Funeral services will be conducted from the home at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and 2:30 o'clock from the Gaastra Presbyterian church. The Rev. Charles Murray will officiate.

Mrs. Walker will be buried by the side of her first husband in the old Iron River cemetery.

FUNERAL NOTICE *Iron River Reporter*, **July 14, 1933**:

Mrs. S. Walker Is Laid To Rest:
Funeral Services Held Wednesday For
Aged Gaastra Resident

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Funeral services for **Mrs. Susan Walker**, 83, of Gaastra, were held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home and 2:30 o'clock from the First Presbyterian church. The Rev. Charles Murray, pastor of the district Presbyterian churches, officiated. Burial was made in the old Iron River cemetery.

The elderly Gaastra resident died early last Sunday morning from infirmities of old age at the home of her son **Kenneth D. Campbell**.

Although Mrs. Walker had not lived here continuously, she is regarded as one of Iron county's oldest pioneers. Coming here [Upper Peninsula] in the year of 1872, she [later] traveled from Menominee by stage coach [sic – stagecoach] when nothing but old logging roads marked the dense underbrush of the Northwest. Her first husband **Kenneth Campbell Sr.** preceded her to this district about two years prior to her arrival here.

Mrs. Walker was the sister of the late **John Shepherd Kinney**, one of the first pioneers to settle in this district.

The pallbearers were August Thomas, Edward Piper, John Hayes, Theodore LaFountain, Victor Denis, and Isac Bagley.

Out of town relatives who attended the funeral were **Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell** of Alberta, Canada; **Alfred Campbell** of Iron Mountain; **Rev. and Mrs. H. Campbell**

of Vermont; and **Richard Campbell** of Maine.

A son **Wesley** of California and a daughter **Mrs. Gaunse Gallup** of Sunburst, Montana were unable to arrive here for the funeral.



Susan Kinney Campbell Walker

Birth: **March 17, 1848**, Greenfield, Carleton County, New Brunswick, Canada

Death: **July 9, 1933** (aged 85), Gaastra, Iron County, Michigan

Burial: Iron River Cemetery, Iron River, Iron County, Michigan

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Children of John Shepherd “Sugar or Praying John” Kinney (1802-1872) and Sarah Ann *Crabb* Kinney (1820-1887)

[Photo from Duane Crabtree – Find A Grave]

Photo taken before 1918 when son John Shepherd “Shep” Kinney, Jr., died.

Back Row, left to right:

1. Richard Wayman Kinney (1856-1932)
2. Rev. Aaron Kinney (1841-1926)
3. John Shepherd “Shep” Kinney Jr. (1838-1918)
4. Rev. Charles Allen Kinney (1859-1934)

Front Row, left to right:

1. Susan Kinney Campbell Walker (1848-1933)*
2. Adelia M. *Kinney* Parent (1853-1922)
3. Sarah Ann “Anna” *Kinney* Crabtree (1842-1935)