

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## GLOSSARY OF MINING TERMS

*The following terms may be useful in understanding some of the details recorded in the following mine accidents.*

**bench:** A ledge extending at right angles from sub-levels into the stope. After the rest of the stope is excavated of ore, the ore in the bench is blasted loose.

**cage:** A type of elevator for hoisting men and materials in a deep shaft mine which slides between guides in the shaft and is usually counterbalanced with the skip.

**capping:** Rock located above the ore.

**chute:** An opening in mine workings through which broken ore is moved into mine cars for haulage to the shaft.

**collar:** The mouth of the mine shaft at the surface.

**core:** A cylindrical stem of rock extracted from the earth by a diamond drill for examination and analysis.

**cribbing:** Timber used as supports and to prevent rock falls.

**cross-cut:** A horizontal opening or tunnel crossing an ore vein or the direction of the main workings and used for ventilation and communication between work areas.

**cut-and-fill stope:** A stope in which ore is removed in slices, after which waste materials (backfill) are run in before the next slice is mined. The backfill is run in before the next slice is mined. The backfill supports the walls of the stope.

**diamond drilling:** The process of exploring and outlining a possible ore body by using a diamond-headed drill to remove cores for examination.

**drift:** An underground passage or tunnel following the direction, or “drift” of a vein

**dry:** A building where miners change clothing, wash and prepare to go to work.

**fault:** A break in the earth’s crust caused by forces that have moved the rock on one side with respect to the other, breaking the continuity of the rock or ore formation.

**footwall:** The rock formation underlying an ore body. The mine shaft is sunk in these rocks, which are solid enough to require no support. Shaft timbers, however, support the mine cages, skips and ladderways.

**hanging wall:** The wall or rock on the upper side of an inclined vein, called the roof in bedded deposits.

**haulage:** The horizontal transport of broken ore along a level to an ore pocket near the shaft.

**headframe:** A structure erected over a shaft to carry the sheaves over which the cable runs for hoisting the cage and skips.

**hoisting:** The vertical transport of broken ore up the shaft from the ore pocket to the ore bins on the surface.

**lagging:** Small, split timbers placed over caps or behind posts to prevent fragments of rock from falling through.

**level:** A horizontal passage or drift extending from the shaft into the mine. It is customary to work mines by levels at more or less regular intervals in depth, numbered by their order below the collar. A level consists of drifts and cross-cuts.

**missed hole:** A drill hole containing an explosive charge that has failed to explode.

**ore pocket:** An excavation in the rock near the shaft to store broken ore delivered by haulage trains, with chute gates feeding skips for hoisting to the surface.

**pillar:** A piece of ground left to support the roof or hanging wall.

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**raise:** An opening, like a shaft, made in the back of a level to reach a level above. When ore is blasted loose in the stopes, it is directed to fall through the raises to the chutes, and from there loaded into ore cars.

**royalty:** Amounts of money paid by an operating mining company to the actual owner of the mineral rights to the property. The royalty may be based upon an agreed amount per ton, or a percentage of the revenues or profits.

**shaft:** A vertical or inclined excavation in a mine extending downward from the surface, or from some interior point, as a principal opening through which the mine is exploited. A shaft may be provided with a hoisting engine and headframe at the top for handling ore, men and supplies, or may be used only in connection with pumping or ventilating operations, or to provide an escapeway. A shaft is generally divided into separate compartments.

**sheave/shive:** A wheel with a grooved rim, such as is mounted in a pulley block, to guide the rope or cable.

**skip:** A large hoisting bucket which slides between guides in a shaft with handle or bail usually connected at or near the bottom of the bucket so it may be dumped automatically at the surface.

**slices:** Drifts or cross-cuts off of raises at intervals between main levels.

**stockpile:** A place where ore is accumulated at the surface when shipping is suspended.

**sub-level:** Drifts or cross-cuts off of raises at intervals between main levels.

**sump:** An excavation to collect mine water for discharge to surface.

**timbering:** A method of supporting an excavation by use of timber posts and cap, laced with lagging or cribbing.

**tram:** An open railway car for carrying loads in a mine.

**winze:** A vertical or inclined opening sunk from a point inside a mine for the purpose of connecting with a lower level, or of exploring the ground for a limited depth below a level.

*The contemporary newspaper accounts of mining accidents below are organized by county (Dickinson County, Michigan; Iron County, Michigan; Florence County, Wisconsin) and then alphabetically by city or district. Under the city or district heading, mining accidents are organized by mine alphabetically.*

## DICKINSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 23 [Thursday, October 21, 1920], page 1, column 5*

### MINES OF COUNTY.

#### Produced 1,696,740 Tons of Ore During Year Ending Sept. 30.

The report of Inspector of Mines Larson, for the year ending September 30th, recently submitted to the board of supervisors, records the fact that there are only eight producing mines in Dickinson county. There are eight inactive mines.

During the year covered by the report, the active mines produced 1,696,74 [sic – 1,696,740] tons of ore, distributed as follows:

Chapin.....	773,501
Clifford.....	118,756

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Munro.....	45,968
Aragon.....	375,590
Curry-Brier Hill.....	216,134
E. Cen. Vulcan-E[.]Vulcan.....	61,060
Loretto.....	101,008
Indiana.....	4,725

At the active mines a total of 2,336 men were employed – on surface 578 and underground 1,758, as follows:

Chapin.....	881
Clifford.....	110
Pewabic.....	4
Munro.....	46
Aragon.....	481
Penn Group.....	636
Loretto.....	130
Indiana.....	47

During the year there were only three fatal accidents, a percentage of .776, a very low one. The victims were: Ludwig Dulan, killed at the Chapin mine, survived by a wife and ten children; Charles Fredine, a single man, killed at the Brier Hill mine, and Louis Rigotti, Sr., killed at the East Vulcan mine, leaving a wife and eight children.

The number of non-fatal accidents, causing a loss of time, is a large one and varies from broken legs and arms to smashed fingers.

## FELCH MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

### METROPOLITAN MINING COMPANY MINE

Felch Mountain District, Dickinson County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 10 [Saturday, March 5, 1881], page 3, columns 4-5

Early Thursday morning while a miner named **William Pridau** [*sic – Prideau*], employed at the **Metropolitan Mining company's** mine in the **Felch district**, was thawing out some giant powder by the fire, the powder exploded, tearing and mangling his hands, legs and face terribly. A messenger was immediately dispatched [*sic – dispatched*] to Norway for a conveyance to bring the injured man in. One was secured at Dickie's livery stable, which made the run and back – returning with the injured man and two attendants – a distance of forty-eight miles, in five hours. The unfortunate miner was taken to the Glen house and his wounds examined by **Dr. McLeod** himself, assisted by two of his staff, when it was found that the man's left arm was so badly mangled as to require amputation near the elbow. His eyes were but slightly injured. The operation was performed with skill and the patient made comfortable enough to be removed to his home at Iron Mountain City that evening. *Prideau is a Cornishman, about 22 years old, and is unmarried. – Iron Chronicle.*

## STURGEON RIVER MINE

Felch Mountain District, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 23 [Saturday, July 9, 1887], page 1, column 3

–We have not been able to gather particulars, but learn that the recent accidental breaking through from the east workings of the **Sturgeon River mine**, into the old workings of the **Metropolitan**, flooded the former mine and drowned **nine men**. Our informant left the scene of the disaster in a few minutes after the calamity,

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and could only give us the above meagre *[sic – meager]* report.

*The Diamond Drill*, Crystal Falls, Iron County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 26 [Saturday, July 16, 1887], page 4, column 1

FIFTEEN men were blasting in one of the east levels of the Sturgeon River mine, Felch Mountain district, last Thursday, and seven of them left the level just after a charge was fired and came up the shafting, leaving the others to follow, but instead of doing this they lingered and were caught in a tremendous rush coming from a vein of water which raised immediately to the height of fifteen or eighteen feet. Those men were all more or less green at the work, and were all Italians. There were ample means of egress, as was shown by the survivors' testimony. Five of the eight were found last Saturday, having been drowned, and three were found in a stope high and dry, but suffocated. It took about twenty-four hours to pump out the mine. The coroner's vernict *[sic – verdict]* exonerates the Sturgeon River Iron Co., from all blame. The names of the dead men are **Sozeomo Race, Piettero Rizzs, Dalis Ricardo, Surani Casagranda, Baptisre Subroillo, Trurisani Sussippa, Georgani Maindena** and **Patalo Domenico**. – Range.

*[NOTE: Some of the names of the Italian victims listed above appear to be reversed, with the surname placed before the given name. Many Italians signed their names in this manner. Thus, Dalis Ricardo is probably Ricardo Dalis, and Patalo Domenico is probably Domenico Patalo. The spellings also appear to be poorly recorded, usually due to unfamiliarity of some ethnic names.]*

## IRON MOUNTAIN

### ANTOINE ORE COMPANY

Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 10 [Thursday, July 29, 1897], page 1, column 4

### BLOWN TO ETERNITY.

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#### William Williams and Lorenzo Sontini the Victims of a Premature Blast.

Last Saturday afternoon at about half past five o'clock, at the open pit of the **Antoine Ore company**, **William Williams** and **Lorenzo Sontani**, were blown to eternity by a premature blast of dynamite. Williams was literally blown to pieces below the waist line and his death was instantaneous. Sontani had one eye blown out and the sight of the other ruined, his jaw broken and the left leg mangled below the knee. In this condition he lingered for several hours.

It is not known how the accident happened, as the men were working in an isolated part of the pit. They were preparing for a blast, and the mine management is of the opinion that they were tamping home the cartridges with an iron bar. This is contrary to all rules of mining and is almost certain to result in an explosion. It is a much quicker way of doing the work, however, and careless miners frequently take the risk.

Williams has been a resident of Iron Mountain for many years and was highly respected by his associates. He was about

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forty years of age and leaves a wife and several small children in rather poor circumstances. Of Lorenzo Sontani but little is known of his history, a young man, about twenty-eight years. He was arrested about a year ago for being implicated in the murder at the Pewabic boarding house, but the prosecution was unable to make a case against him and he was discharged.

## CHAPIN MINE

Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

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

### [Menominee Range.]

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

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 31 [Saturday, September 5, 1885], page 1, column 4

### IRON MOUNTAIN MELANGE.

**Christ Christianson** was instantly killed at the **Chapin mine**, Tuesday afternoon, by falling ground.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 38 [Saturday, October 24, 1885], page 1, column 6

A **Swede**, whose name we could not learn, was killed at the **Chapin mine** the early part of the week by falling down a shaft.

*Menominee Democrat*, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 9 [Saturday, January 2, 1886], page 5, column 3

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

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 34 [Saturday, September 18, 1886], page 1, column 6

A distressing accident occurred [*sic – occurred*] at the new **Chapin spur**, opposite the company's office, last Tuesday afternoon, by which two men lost their lives, two were seriously and others slightly injured. A guy rope of one of the derricks that stand near the open pit was stretched across the track at a height permitting the gravel train to pass under it. Just as the train was coming down about five o'clock Tuesday afternoon this derrick partly fell, from what cause we did not learn, slackening this rope so that it caught the smoke stack of the locomotive, tore it off and swept the crowd of workmen standing on the loaded cars to the ground. The killed were **Leon Jete** [*sic – Jette*] and **Antonio Seenia**. One poor fellow fell under the wheels and his head and arm were completely severed from the body and the trunk dragged two or three hundred feet along the track and shockingly mangled. The other was evidently killed by a blow on the forehead. **Michael Ramber** was seriously injured in the head, and **Pasquolle** [*sic – Pasquale*] **Nongoli** sustained a compound fracture of the leg, while **George Allen** and **Swan Nelson** received slight injuries. Several others received scratches and bruises, but not of a sufficiently serious character to lay them up. — Menominee Range.

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*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VI, Number 38 [Saturday, September 18, 1886], page 5, column 2

A fatal accident occurred at Iron Mountain, at 5 p.m. Tuesday in which **Leon Jette**, a Frenchman, and **Antonio Seenia**, an Italian, were instantly killed and several others were badly injured. A work train with about thirty men was backing down a grade at the **Chapin mine**. A guy rope of the derrick had settled down low enough so that it raked the men from the cars, knocking them right and left. The head of the Italian was ten rods from the body when found.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 7 [Saturday, March 19, 1887], page 1, column 4

## IRON MOUNTAIN.

Wednesday evening another fatal accident occurred at the **Chapin mine**. An **Italian**, aged about 40, fell from the tramway, a distance of 100 feet, and was instantly killed.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 27 [Saturday, August 6, 1887], page 1, column 2

–**Peter Angove**, a Cornishman who came to this country about four weeks ago, was accidentally killed while working in the **Chapin mine** Thursday night. He was about 24 yrs. Of age, and went from this place two weeks ago to work where he met his sad fate. We have not been able to learn further particulars.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 6 [Saturday, March 10, 1888], page 1, column 5

## IRON MOUNTAIN.

On Tuesday noon a singular accident occurred at “**B**” shaft of the **Chapin**, after (as was supposed) all of the men had been hoisted from the sixth level, to dinner, and hoisting from the other levels was in progress. **Noah Lowrey** and his partner[,] who had been detained for a few minutes at the sixth, reached the shaft and seeing the cage, momentarily stopped at that level, Lowrey in opposition to the rules and also to the remonstrance of his companion undertook to get on without giving any signal to hold the cage while he did so. The result was, that just as he got one foot on, the cage started and raised him sufficiently to throw him backwards into the level. He was taken to surface and did not become entirely conscious until the next morning but is now reported as improving rapidly. Comment is unnecessary. This being another evidence of the manner in which men will thoughtlessly risk their lives, for the sake of a few minute’s time.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 28 [Saturday, August 11, 1888], page 4, columns 2-3

The **miner** who was covered up and who so miraculously escaped death at the **Chapin** on Wednesday of last week, is able to walk around and will soon be at work. As those who are acquainted with the system of mining at the Chapin will know, the openings made in taking out ore are immediately filled with rock, and the injured man and his partner (who had worked in the same pillar over one year) had completed the filling up of the opening

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made by one "slice," and were just beginning another from the other side of the crosscut, next the hanging [wall]. The crosscut was timbered and lagged, to the hanging [wall], and the space in which the men were at work was 7 ft. high, with 5 ft. 4 in. cap pieces. A car was under the cap piece of the second set of timber about 3 ½ ft. from the hanging [wall] and one man was filling from each side of the leg of that set. A large body of ore set off from the back breaking the cap piece in two and crushing the car, covering up the inside man. As soon as the alarm was given, the work of getting out the supposed dead man was begun, but as the place was small, and the broken car in the way but one or two men could work at a time and it took fully one hour and a half of hard work to reach the man. Judge of the surprise of the rescuers on finding the man with no bones broken and really but little injured. The ore in falling must have jammed in such a way as to keep nearly all the weight off the man.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 31 [Saturday, September 1, 1888], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENT.

By the closing in of a crosscut, in "C" shaft at the **Chapin mine**, on Tuesday morning, two trammers were buried and one of them[,] named **P. Persson**, was crushed to death. The second[,] whose name was **Isaacson**, was not seriously injured but was so fastened by his feet, that it took nearly seven hours to free him. The men were engaged in filling up a place about 7x13 ft. in size which had been mined out and timbered, and the crosscut through which they were tramping the rock was considered[,] by every one who had worked there, as being perfectly safe. The men had a car into the place which it was

intended to fill, when the ground settled in such a manner as to knock out the timbers with the result as above. There was a jury empanelled but we failed to learn the verdict.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 46 [Saturday, December 15, 1888], page 1, column 5

## RAMBLINGS: IRON MOUNTAIN.

Last Saturday afternoon, a man named **Peter Johnson**[,] employed at the **Chapin mine**, was instantly killed by the explosion of some dynamite which was being thawed in a heater. The exact cause of the accident will never be known as no one was nearer him at the time than two men working in a 40 ft. winze from which Johnson was doing the windlassing. The deceased had recently come from Missouri, and claimed to be a practical miner. The jury which was empanelled to inquire into the cause of death, rendered a verdict of, accidental death.

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 8 [Thursday, May 16, 1889], page 1, column 4

## Badly Crushed.

An unfortunate accident happened at the **Chapin cut** last Friday afternoon, resulting in badly crushing one of **John Fleming's** legs. Jack was employed as brakesman [*sic* – *brakeman*] by the C. & N.W. Company, and on the afternoon in question, [*sic*] was standing on the end of an ore car as a train was being pushed up the steep grade to the ore docks. The grade in the cut is so heavy that in order to reach the further end of the docks it is necessary to start with a rush. While the

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train was moving at a high rate of speed one of the cars jumped the track, throwing Fleming off. He was caught and rolled between the moving cars and the cars standing on the adjoining track, crushing one of his limbs and badly bruising and straining the muscles about the hip. He is doing as well as could be expected.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume V, Number 17 [Saturday, May 25, 1889], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

Friday, of last week[,] **two men** were injured at the **Chapin**, one having a leg broken, and the other an arm badly injured by falling ground. The accidents were at two different points in the mine.

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 31 [Thursday, October 24, 1889], page 5, column 3

### Lost Both Feet.

**Frank Hicks**, seven year old son of **Samuel Hicks**, lost both feet yesterday afternoon on the tram road leading from C shaft, **Chapin mine** to the quarry. The cars on this tram road are propelled by an endless wire rope running between the tracks. Near the quarry there is a turn in the track, and the rope runs around a horizontal shieve placed beneath the track. The little lad is supposed to have been running along behind a car that was returning to the quarry and stepped into the shieve box, where his legs were caught between the shieve and rope and cut completely off a little below the knee. The man in charge of the car heard the boy's cries and picked him up and carried him to the hospital where he received prompt

surgical attention and is doing as well as could be expected. The officials and employes [*sic* – employees] of the Chapin Mining Company have been very much annoyed by children playing on this track, and they have been repeatedly warned of the danger of so doing. It has been the custom of boys and girls living in that vicinity to place a board on the rope and ride up and down the track, at the imminent peril of being caught and mangled on one of the numerous shieves and rollers over which the rope runs. We hope the children will take warning from this accident and in the future indulge in some less hazardous amusement.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume VI, Number 52 [Saturday, January 11, 1891], page 1, column 4

## FIRE IN THE CHAPIN MINE.

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### Two Men Dead and Two More Nearly Suffocated. – The Origin of the Fire not Known, but the Damage Thought to be Small.

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Thursday evening soon after the men had come out of the **Chapin mine** (at six o'clock) smoke began to ascend from "**C**" shaft and in a short time it was issuing from every shaft in the mine. The 8-hour shift men were still in the mine and men went down every shaft except "**C**" to rescue them. The time-keeper was summoned who called the roll and found 6 men missing. Two of these came up "**B**" shaft but the 4 others who were working at "**D**" could not be reached because of the smoke

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and gases. The cages in No. 2 Timber shaft were dropped to the bottom with lanterns on them, but no one rang to hoist. Several parties tried to go down at different times but were driven back by smoke. Later one party more successful than the others found the four men in the 6th level about 300 ft. east of the crosscut which runs to No. 2. Two of them were dead, a third was for a time in precarious condition and the fourth would have doubtless soon succumbed. The position in which the men were, argues that they must have been so overcome with smoke as to miss the crosscut to No. 2 which would have taken them to the shaft and the waiting cages, in about 100 ft. The names of the unfortunate dead are **Jeremiah Bennetts** and **Thomas Edwards**, the one an Englishman and the other a Welshman, both married and both old employes [*sic – employees*] of the mine. While the result is a deplorable one, it would have doubtless been much worse had it been at any other time of day.

The exact location of the fire has not been learned and of course its origin and extent is also a matter of conjecture, although it is believed to be in the engine room of the rope haulage system, near “C” shaft. So little time elapsed between the time of the hoisting and the discovery of smoke coming from “C” shaft that the fire must have made rapid progress, or the conditions been such as to make very much smoke. The shafts are all sealed up and a stream of water is being sent down “C” shaft. The smoke being kept down by the water but finding its way to surface when the water was shut off for a short time. If as is generally thought, the fire is in the engine room at the 6th level of “C” there does not seem to be any danger that it will reach any point where it can spread rapidly, and its [*sic – it*] must by this time (Friday night) have burned itself out. There will be an attempt made tomorrow to locate the fire and measures taken to extinguish it and

drive out the gas. In the meantime the shafts will be kept closed, and water will be sent down “C” shaft. The excitement which ran high last night, has somewhat abated, and every one [*sic – everyone*] hopes for the best.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume VII, Number 1 [Saturday, February 7, 1891], page 8, columns 2-3

**[This article needs to be copied.]**

*The Iron Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 17 [Thursday, July 16, 1891], page 1, column 4

ON Saturday last a **twelve-year-old son** of Mr. and Mrs. **Ernest Cleutier** was almost instantly killed by an accident which befell him on the road near “B” shaft house at the **Chapin**. It seems that a team of horses was drawing a couple of tram cars, one of them being fastened behind the other. Near B shaft the road is raised several feet in order to pass over a tramway and while going over this elevation the boy, who was sitting on the second car, lost his balance and fell between the two. The team was walking at a rapid pace and as the driver was not aware that the boy had fallen he drove along and two of the car wheels ran between the boy’s legs and upon his body, along the spine and over his head. The result was that the body was terribly mangled and the skull was crushed. A physician was called at once but nothing could be done to save the boy’s life and he died within a few moments after the accident occurred.

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XV, Number 12 [Thursday, June 22, 1893], page 1, column 5

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## BURIED ALIVE.

### Fatal Accident at the Chapin Mine Last Monday Morning.

The worst accident in years occurred at **A shaft** of the **Chapin** last Monday morning and resulted in the death of two miners – **Gust Johnson** and **John Larson**. The men were employed in a room, the roof of which fell in and they were suffocated to death. Just at what time the accident occurred is not known, as the men were not missed until the noon hour, when the cave-in was discovered.

A rescuing party was immediately organized and the work of digging out the men was commenced, but owing to the nature of the soil – quicksand and clay – but slow progress was made, and it was not until Tuesday evening that the bodies were uncovered. They were found in a standing position with mouth, nose and eyes full of sand. They must have died a few moments after the accident occurred. The victims are unmarried men and came to Iron Mountain a few weeks ago from Vulcan, where they had been employed by the Penn company. Johnson has a brother living here and Larson a sister.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume IX, Number 24 [Saturday, July 15, 1893], page 1, column 3

## FATAL ACCIDENTS.

**Capt. Fred Innes** was instantly killed at the **Chapin mine** yesterday by a fall of rock. He had gone into a room on the new seventh level to examine some work that

had just been done there, and had pronounced it all right, and was in the act of lighting his pipe, when he was struck on the back of the neck by a rock and instantly killed. He leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss. Captain Innes was one of the best miners about the Chapin mine, and was liked by everybody who knew him. His funeral will take place to-morrow [*sic* – *tomorrow*] morning.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 44 [Saturday, November 30, 1895], page 1, column 2

## TWO KILLED.

Tuesday morning two **Italian miners** at the **Chapin** were blasted with dynamite. One was instantly killed and the other lingered a few hours, but no definite statement could be gotten from him as to the cause of the explosion, before he expired.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 3 [Thursday, June 11, 1896], page 1, column 3

**Carlo Bonanni**, a tram-man, employed at the **Chapin mine**, was caught between two tram-cars last Friday night and received internal injuries that resulted in his death. As soon as possible after the accident he was conveyed to the company hospital, where **Dr. Carpenter** at once pronounced him injured unto death. Bonanni continued to linger in great pain until Sunday morning, when death relieved him of his sufferings. The deceased was forty-five years of age, and was well thought of by his countrymen. He leaves a wife and seven children in Italy.

**Charles Prolo** was instantly killed and **Samuel Cowling** was quite badly bruised

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by a cave-in on the eighth level of **No. 2 timber shaft** at the **Chapin mine** last Tuesday afternoon. The accident was caused by the giving-way of the capping on the timbers. Proollo leaves a wife and three children, and resided on Fourth street near Vulcan. He was a member of the Spring Valley, Ill., lodge of Odd Fellows and the two local Italian societies. He was about forty years of age and commanded the respect and esteem of his countryman [*sic – countrymen*] in a high degree. Strange to say there are no marks on his person beyond a few bruises and **Dr. Carpenter** is of the opinion that he must have suffocated to death. His funeral takes place this afternoon and the Odd Fellows will have charge of it.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 14 (Thursday, August 27, 1896), page 1, column 5

## **Eight Hundred Feet.**

**Fred Peterson**, an old and valued man of the **Chapin Mining company**, fell a distance of nearly eight hundred feet down the **Hamilton shaft** yesterday noon and was horribly mangled. The skull was crushed in and both arms and legs torn from the body. The deceased resided on Smith street and leaves a wife and one child – a son – to mourn his untimely death. He was one of our most prominent and influential Scandinavian citizens, and his death is generally regretted.

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVIII, Number 19 [Saturday, August 29, 1896], page 1, column 2

## **HORRIBLE DEATH.**

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## **Foreman For the Chapin Mining Company Falls Seven Hundred Feet.**

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## **BODY TORN TO PIECES**

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## **While Being Hoisted to the Surface a Gage Staff Catches the Side of the Shaft. Long Search for the Remains. Leaves a Wife and Child.**

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Shortly before eleven o'clock Wednesday forenoon, **Alfred Peterson**, foreman at the **Hamilton shaft number 2**, owned by the Chapin Mining Co., fell from a cage that was being hoisted to the surface of the shaft, and fell headlong to the bottom, a distance of 700 feet. Peterson was holding a gage staff in his hand and it was presumed that this caught on the side of the shaft or accidentally [*sic- accidentally*] struck a piece of timber, and in the endeavor to hold fast to the staff he lost his footing. Two fellow workmen were in the cage with the unfortunate man at the time of the accident, but the rapidity with which the cages are hoisted and the utter darkness of the shaft, prevented them from discovering his absence until they reached the surface. Supt. McNaughton was at once notified and ordered all mining operations to be suspended. Every man was put to work in the endeavor to recover the remains.

Coroner Cudlip was also notified and empaneled [*sic – impaneled*] a jury to be in readiness when the body should be recovered. The jury consisted of J.M.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

Davey, Wm. Cowling, D. Dawson, R. Heberle, Geo. Irving and Jas. Langdon.

Fred Peterson, as he was familiarly called, is an old employe [sic – employee] of the Chapin Mining Company, and a man of sober and industrious habits. He was one of the most careful and competent foremen employed at the mine. Only last week the superintendent was inspecting the work of which Peterson had charge, and complimented him highly on the careful manner in which he conducted the affairs at the Hamilton. He leaves a wife and one child living at 524 East Smith street.

The body was recovered about 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and taken to Robbins' morgue, where it was prepared for burial.

The sight of the mangled remains was too horrible to describe and could not be viewed at any great length without causing a deathly sickness to the observer.

The coroner's jury was called Thursday and held an inquest over the remains to ascertain the cause of the accident.

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVIII, Number 19 [Saturday, August 29, 1896], page 5, column 3

## HAD MANY FRIENDS.

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### The Victim of the Chapin Mine Horror of Wednesday was Buried Today.

The remains of **Alfred Peterson**, the man who was killed at the Chapin mine Thursday morning, was followed to the grave by many mourning friends. The funeral took place Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock under the auspices of the S.H. & E.F. of A., a Swedish society of which the deceased was a member.

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVIII, Number 20 [Saturday, September 5, 1896], page 1, column 5

## DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL.

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### So Says the Coroner's Jury in the Alfred Peterson Case.

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The jury empaneled [sic – impaneled] by the Coroner to ascertain the cause of the death of **Alfred Peterson**, who was killed Wednesday forenoon at the **Chapin mine**, met in the city hall at three o'clock Monday afternoon. Three witnesses were examined and every particle of evidence was thoroughly looked into. The cause of the accident was found to be as described in the Tribune the day the accident occurred. In view of the testimony given it was the opinion of the jury that the deceased came to his death by his own carelessness.

The jury consisted of **J.M. Davey, Wm. Cowling, D. Dawson, R. Heberle, Geo. Irving** and **James Langdon**.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 13 [Thursday, August 19, 1897], page 1, column 5

## RESULTED FATALLY.

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### The Accident to August Greenburg at the Chapin Mine Saturday Night.

The first fatal accident in many months occurred at the **Chapin mine** last Saturday

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

night. **August Greenburg** was the victim, and the accident was caused by a fall of ground. As soon as Greenburg was released he was taken to the company hospital, where an examination proved that his injuries consisted of a fractured skull, scalp, lacerated abdomen and a crushed right leg. The injured man lived in an unconscious condition until Tuesday morning, when he expired. Greenburg was about forty years of age and leaves a wife and three children.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 37 [Thursday, January 31, 1901], page 1, column 2

## NEARLY LOST HIS FOOT.

**Thomas Powell** met with a very painful accident, at the **Chapin saw-mill** [*sic – sawmill*], last Thursday afternoon. He was cutting short timber, when he was unfortunate enough to accidentally put his foot against the circular saw, cutting it in a terrible manner. He was taken to his home, where the wound was dressed, but it will be some time before he will be able to walk.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 37 [Thursday, January 31, 1901], page 1, column 3

## FELL FROM A TRESTLE.

**Adolph Gauthier**, an old and trusted employe [*sic – employee*] of the **Chapin Mining company**, was instantly killed, last Friday morning. Gauthier had charge of the dump cars on the trestle of the **Hamilton shaft**, and while attending to his duties on the fatal morning, was struck by an out-going car, and knocked between the tracks on the trestle, plunging to the ground, thirty

feet below, where his head struck a rock, crushing the skull, and breaking the neck, causing instant death. He leaves a wife and seven children to mourn his loss. The funeral took place from St. Joseph's church, Sunday morning, under the auspices of the Ste. Jean Baptiste society, of which the deceased was a member.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 2 [Thursday, June 6, 1901], page 1, columns 1-2

## SHOCKING CATASTROPHE.

### Eight Miners Suffocated in the Chapin Mine Last Tuesday Morning.

At about two o'clock last Tuesday morning, in Stopes Nos. 2 and 3, on the seventh level of the Ludington shaft of the **Chapin mine**, occurred the most shocking and heart-rending catastrophe in the history of mining in this district – a catastrophe that snuffed out the lives of eight able-bodied citizens, rendered fatherless thirteen children, and enveloped the entire community in a pall of mourning.

The victims of the catastrophe are as follows:

**ANTONIO FORNETTI**, Italian, leaves wife and seven children.

**JOHN AIMONE**, Italian, leaves wife and four children.

**JOSEPH PASSERI**, Italian, leaves wife and one child.

**JOHN MILANO**, Italian, leaves a wife – recently married.

**LOUIS TASSI**, Italian, single.

**JOHN BERTELLI**, Italian, single.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

**RINALDO ANSUINO**, Italian, leaves wife – recently married.

**ALBERT KONTRAS**, Polander, leaves a wife and one child.

There were ten miners employed in the stopes named, but two – **John Holmquist** and **Charles Peterson**, Scanvinavians – managed to make their escape after a desperate struggle with the poisonous air. Holmquist, in escaping, had several ribs fractured by a fall, and Peterson was so overcome by the foul air that, for a time, his life was despaired of. Kontras, the Polander, also bears evidence of having made a desperate effort to escape from the deadly gases which were stealing away the lives of his companions, but in going down a short ladder he, too, was overcome and fell to the level below. While his remains were somewhat disfigured, it will never be known whether his death was caused, like the other seven, by suffocation, or he was killed by the fall. Kontras had just recovered from the effects of an accident, which had confined him to the hospital for several months, and this was his first shift.

The exact cause of the accident will, probably, never be known.

It is the general supposition of practical miners, who have had experiences and narrow escapes from the deadly gases generated by burning dynamite, that the men were suffocated and that their deaths were quick and painless.

The supposition is borne out by the condition in which the remains of the victims were found. There were no evidences of a struggle upon their countenances. Their features were in natural repose. Several retained their grasp upon their tools, others had evidence of a smile upon their countenances, and one poor fellow fellow [*sic*] was in the attitude of prayer with his hands covering his face as if to ward off the deadly fumes which were lulling him into an eternal sleep. The picture of this death chamber, with its

seven victims in various attitudes of repose – strong men who but a few moments before had been wielding the pick and shovel without a thought of other than earthly things – is one that a strong imagination only is capable of correctly portraying.

Antonio Fornetti was found dead hanging in the ladder-way.

Covered with the soot of the burning powder, the men were tenderly borne to the morgue at the company hospital and the wives, children and relatives informed of their loss. This was a duty that the strongest heart shrunk from, but it was performed with that brotherly, loving spirit that is no where more in evidence than in the heart of the true miner – a spirit born in fellowship that not only cements neighborhoods and communities, but nations. The scene at the hospital, when the afflicted relatives gathered to view their loved ones, is too sacred for public print, and the curtain of sympathy is drawn about the mourners.

A powder thawer was being used by the men, and it is thought the person in charge of the machine became negligent in the performance of his duty in the matter of keeping the water-chamber properly supplied. This neglect permitted the thawer to become over-heated, resulting in the dynamite taking fire, and in a short space of time, the two chambers were filled with the deadly fumes, striking dead the men as they were at work.

Peterson and Holmquist were at work about forty feet distant from the others. Holmquist soon detected the odor of the burning dynamite and, with Peterson, made haste to escape. In an interview he states that that portion of the mine in which he was at work was filled like a flash with a thick white smoke. It was utterly impossible to see your hand and breathing, as he knew by past experiences, meant death. He held his breath and grooped [*sic – groped*] his

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

way along, and, guided by the Good Spirit, soon made his way out of the death chamber into the pure air, with Peterson closely following. The alarm was given and **Capt. Goldworthy** was notified. In a short space of time the air was purified so that men could enter the stopes and rescue the bodies, which were brought to the surface at about six o'clock. Holmquist states that, in making his way, he stumbled over the body of one of the men, but he was so nearly overcome by the gases that it was impossible for him to attempt a rescue.

All the victims were old miners[,] having been employed at the Chapin for many years. They were good citizens, commanding the respect and confidence of the management and their associates.

The funerals of the victims will take place to-day [*sic – today*] – four being buried in the morning and four in the afternoon. Services over the seven Italians will be conducted by **Rev. Father Berto**, of the Italian church, assisted by **Revs. Nosbisch** and **Dassylva**. The funeral of Albert Kontras will be held from St. Mary's church. The several Italian societies will attend in a body, headed by the Columbian band, and there will be general suspension of operations during the day at all the mines.

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**Mine Inspector Trestrail**, who visited the scene of the disaster at an early hour Tuesday morning, in an interview with The Press, expresses the belief that the accident was not caused by negligence in the use of the powder-thawer, but rather, by the explosion of a box and a half of dynamite in a dead-end in the hanging-wall. In this opinion he is sustained by the fact that four or five sets of timber against this dead-end had been blown to pieces. Holmquist also confirms this theory by a statement that he was knocked down by a violent concussion. This dead-end in the

hanging-wall, which has a depth of about eight feet, was used by the men as a sort of store-house and lunch-room. Two boxes of dynamite had been stored therein the previous morning by the day crew, a portion of which had been used. Mr. Trestrail is of the opinion that the balance became ignited from a piece of candle which had been left burning near the boxes by one of the men during the lunch, and was not extinguished when work was resumed.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 14 [Thursday, August 26, 1909], page 1, column 3*

## DYNAMITE IN BOOTS

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**WITH POWERFUL DYNAMITE  
CAPS EXPLODING AT HIS FEET.**

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**James Johnson Has a Miraculous  
Escape from Being Blasted to  
Atoms; Boots Are Torn.**

With twelve sticks of dynamite in his boot-legs and powerful permission [*sic – percussion*] caps exploding at his feet, **James Johnson** had an escape from being blown to atoms at the **Chapin mine** last Saturday morning at four o'clock that was simply miraculous.

Johnson, who is a master miner, was preparing the explosives for making a twelve-hole blast. As is the too uncommon practice with miners, Johnson had placed the sticks of dynamite in the tops of his rubber boots, this being deemed a convenient and safe way of carrying the explosive in climbing ladders, notwithstanding that shoulder bags are provided for the purpose. He was in the act

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

of removing the powerful caps employed in exploding the cartridges from the boxes in which they are packed in sawdust with a cotton batten covering, when a spark from the candle in his hat fell into the box. The box contained one hundred caps each with an explosive power of over fifty pounds, and all exploded but fourteen with a thundering report.

When the miners working in the vicinity reached the secure [*sic – scene*] of the accident, Johnson was found unconscious and seemingly dead. He was at once taken to the surface and to the hospital. Here an examination established that Johnson was still alive, but horribly mangled. The left hand was so badly shattered that amputation at the wrist was necessary and the sight of the left eye was also destroyed. A large gash was torn in the breast and many other bruises and cuts inflicted by the flying pieces of caps and rocks. The heavy boots containing the twelve sticks of dynamite were literally torn from his feet, but the cartridges are found intact.

Miners are unable to understand, or explain, why the explosion of the caps within such a short distance did not explode the dynamite. In ninety-nine and two-third cases in a hundred such a result would [*sic – would*] have followed and the men view Johnson's escape with awe. Had the dynamite "let go," Johnson would have been blown to fragments.

The injured man is now at the hospital and his condition is comfortable considering the nature of his injuries. He is a single man and made his home with **Arthur Cox**.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 47 [Thursday, April 14, 1910], page 1, column 2

## Suffocated to Death.

**Albert Hunt**, employed on the twelfth level of the **Hamilton shaft** of the **Chapin mine**, was the victim of a fatal accident last Friday forenoon. Hunt, with several other men, was engaged in removing some timbers from a room when the ore rushed down. Hunt was caught under the loose ore and was suffocated to death before he could be rescued. The body was removed to [*the*] home of Mr. and Mrs. **James Bennetts** on West Brown street, where the young man resided. Hunt was about twenty years of age and came to Iron Mountain from England about nine months ago. He was of retired disposition, but had won many friends during his residence here. As near as can be learned he had no relatives in this country.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 2 [Thursday, June 2, 1910], page 4, column 4

## Drill Operator Killed.

**Eugene J. LaLone** [*sic – La Londe*], employed as a drill operator on the thirteenth level of **B shaft, Chapin mine**, was caught by a fall of ground last Tuesday afternoon and was suffocated to death before he could be extricated. LaLone [*sic – La Londe*], with a number of helpers, was engaged in the work of removing a drill at the time of the accident preparatory to erecting some new timbers. The body was not badly bruised, but the right leg was broken below the knee. The young man was about twenty-seven years of age. He was unmarried and resided with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene LaLone [*sic – La Londe*], on Blaine street. He was a young man of excellent character and had many friends. The funeral will be held tomorrow [*sic – tomorrow*] afternoon at two o'clock from the First M.E. church.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 27 [Thursday, November 18, 1915], page 1, column 2*

*The Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 1 [Thursday, May 18, 1916], page 8, columns 3-4*

## FATALITY AT THE CHAPIN.

### Joseph Polkinghorne Suffocated To Death By Fall of Ore.

**Joseph Polkinghorne** was the victim of the first fatality to occur in the workings of the **Oliver Iron Mining company** in about eighteen months. The accident happened at about the noon hour last Thursday. Mr. Polkinghorne was employed at the **Ludington shaft**. At the time of the accident he was standing on the side of the ore in a chute. His partner was endeavoring to make the ore run down. When the ore started Polkinghorne was carried down with it and buried under the mass. Rescue work was started at once, but before he could be extricated he had suffocated to death. Mr. Polkinghorne is survived by a wife, two children, three bothers and one sister. He was about thirty-five years of age and was born in England, coming to Iron Mountain with his parents when he was five years of age. The funeral was held on Sunday from the First M.E. church and was largely attended. The Sons of St. George, of which Mr. Polkinghorne was a member, attended in a body. Mr. Polkinghorne was held in high esteem by a large circle of friends and his tragic death brought forth expressions of sympathy and commendations of his character. As a husband and father he was loving and devout. It is recalled that Mr. Polkinghorne's father was also killed in the **Chapin mine** about thirty years ago.

### Fatality at the Chapin.

**Andrew Hassell** was instantly killed [sic] last Saturday night while engaged in drifting in the sixteenth level at the **Chapin B shaft**. Mr. Hassell and his partner, **John Nelson**[,] had just filled a bucket with ore when without warning a large chunk of ore fell down and struck Mr. Hassell on the back. Before he could be removed his body was nearly crushed with falling ore. After the body had been taken out, it was found that his chest was crushed, back badly bruised, left hip dislocated and right arm crushed above the waist. Mr. Hassell was fifty-two years of age and leaves a wife, one daughter, Miss **Ellen**, two sons, **Conrad** and **Paul**, two brothers, **Olaf**, of thts [sic – this] city, and **Charles**[,] of Homestead, two sisters, **Mrs. William Falk** and **Mrs. Charles Peterson**, of this city, and two sisters in Sweden. He **[need to copy remainder of this article in column 4]**

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 2 [Thursday, May 30, 1918], page 1, column 2*

### A FATAL ACCIDENT.

The first fatal accident in several years occurred at the **Hamilton shaft** of the **Chapin mine** last Saturday morning. **Anton Zaccardi**, a miner, was the victim. He was engaged in cleaning out a room at the time of the accident and was in a stooping position when a large chunk of ore fell from the wall striking him on the neck and shoulders. Coroner Sethney was

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

called, but did not consider it necessary to hold an inquest. Mr. Zaccardi was about forty years of age and is survived by a wife and two children.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_ [Saturday, August 5, 1922], page 1, columns 1-2

## CHAPIN MINE MISHAPS TAKE LIVES OF TWO

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### Fatalities Occur Within 24 Hours of Each Other

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### EXCHANGED JOBS

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### One Man Falls Down Chute, Other Caught By Cave-In

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Two fatalities within 24 hours, the first in four or five years, marred the safety record of the **Chapin mine** yesterday and today. The first occurred about 3:30 yesterday afternoon when **John Apriesnig**, aged about 40, fell down a timber chute near the old **Millie workings**. **Frank Kozel**, about 32 years old, was the second victim, when he was caught in a cave of ore on a stope about 100 feet above the **twelfth level of B shaft** at about 8:30 this morning. Apriesnig was alive when taken to surface, but died at

the hospital early last evening. Kozel was buried alive, dying of suffocation before the rescuers could reach him. More than an hour was required to remove the ore which covered his body. Both men were married, Kozel living on a farm west of the city park, and Apriesnig in a home at 316 Vulcan street. By an odd coincidence, the two men had exchanged jobs about a month before.

Apriesnig had climbed the ladder road alongside the timber chute to warn the miners above not to dump any more ore down the chute until a jam in the lower end had been cleared away. After giving his warning, he started down again and a minute later his body shot out the base of the chute on the level below.

The distance he fell is estimated at from 100 to 150 feet. Whether he slipped or was struck by a chunk of ore will never be known. He was rushed to St. George's hospital, but his injuries were so severe that death was seen to be inevitable. He was terribly bruised and mangled, and had also suffered internal injuries.

#### Working in Stope.

Kozel and his partner, **Atilio Mochen**, were working in a stope about 100 feet above the twelfth level. Kozel was drilling preparatory to blasting. How the cavein occurred is uncertain, but it completely buried Kozel, and narrowly missed his partner, who escaped by crawling through a small hole to the ladder way. Mochen gave the alarm, the cage was called, and the ambulance summoned, but it was found that considerable time would be required to move the ore that covered the body of the unfortunate man. All the men who could get into the stope set to work with shovels, and the body was reached shortly after 10 o'clock, and brought to surface a few minutes later. It was taken to Payant's undertaking establishment.

News of the tragedy this morning spread quickly, and a crowd of probably 200 men, women and children gathered about the

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

mouth of the shaft, silently waiting to learn the identity of the victim. Crowds of others in front yards and on sidewalks, [sic] watched the slow progress of the ambulance through the streets.

## Scene Has Changed.

“I sometimes wish that I were an artist and could sketch the scenes about the mouth of a shaft after an accident,” **Dr. J.A. Crowell**, for forty years physician for the Oliver Iron Mining Co., declared this morning while waiting for the body of Frank Kozel to be brought up B shaft, [sic] “It is one of the most pathetic scenes I know of.”

“This isn’t like it used to be. In the old days, when there was an accident, the whole shift would quit work, and would come to surface in their digging clothes. Then they would stand around the mouth of the shaft and wait.

“It would not be long before the location heard of the news, and the women and children would come to join the men. I have seen hundreds of people grouped about this same shaft – waiting, like they are this morning.

“Then, all of a sudden, we would hear the slow, mournful clang of the six bells – the hoisting signal giving notice that we would know the worst in a few moments. The look of strained anxiety, of dreading anticipation, on those faces can never be forgotten once one has seen it.

“Of course, we don’t have as many accidents as we used to; the safety movement has that to its credit. It’s too bad that these should occur just when we’re beginning to feel that we have a really safe mine.”

## Services Tomorrow.

Funeral services for Apriesnig will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o’clock from the home to St. Mary’s church. **Rev. Mockler** officiating. He is survived by his widow and three children, **John**, 18; **Frank**, 12, and **Priscilla**, 9. Apriesnig was an Austrian, born in German-Austria,

December 12, 1882 and came to this country in 1913. After working in Milwaukee for about five years, he came to Iron Mountain and entered the employ of the Oliver Mining company. A year ago last May he brought his wife and children over from Austria and for the last few weeks had been building a new home on Stanton street. He was a member of the Sick Benefit association, Sons of Carinthia, which will take part in the services.

Kozel had been a resident of Iron Mountain for about two years and is survived by his widow and one son, 5 years of age. The body will be shipped Monday morning to his home in Bessemer and the funeral will be held there Tuesday morning. Kozel was born in Poland and was a member of the Polish lodge in Bessemer.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Wednesday, March 5, 1924], page 1, column 5

## FRANK CAVAIANI INJURED IN MINE

—————  
Hurt While Working Un-  
derground; Condition  
Is Improved  
—————

**Frank Cavaiani**, employe [sic – employee] of the **Chapin mine** who was seriously injured Monday afternoon while working underground, has shown improvement in his condition, an attending physician declared today.

Cavaiani is confined to the General hospital where he was taken following the accident. He was injured while driving an underground motor, his body becoming jammed between a timber and a car.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

An examination disclosed that he had been hurt internally but because of the shock he had suffered it was deemed inadvisable to operate. His condition was still serious today although he was better than yesterday.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Tuesday, January 20, 1925], page 1, column \_\_\_\_

## CHAPIN MINER DIES IN FALL

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### Accident Happens Shortly After Survey By County Inspector

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**Henry Scheller**, 50, met death at the **Chapin mine** this afternoon presumably in a fall down a chute.  
chute. [sic]

Circumstances surrounding the man's death were not known at the office of the Oliver Iron Mining Co., but the belief was expressed that he had fallen down the chute. An investigation was underway about 4 o'clock to determine the cause.

Scheller, a Swiss, had been employed at the Chapin about a year. He was single, according to company records.

The accident occurred shortly after a four-day survey of safety conditions had been made at the property by **Warner Hammarlund**, county mine inspector.

Mr. Hammarlund, who was accompanied by every underground foreman of the mine and who covered every part of the property, said conditions were very good. He complimented the foremen and mine officials for the unusual

precautions taken by them in an attempt to reduce mine accidents.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Saturday, February 28, 1925], page 2, column 1

## MINER KILLED BY DESCENDING CAGE

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### Skull Fractured When He Tries to See Shaft Water Level

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His skull crushed by a descending elevator cage as he was peering over the edge of the **Hamilton shaft** at the sixteenth level of the **Chapin mine**, **Charles Dickson**, 64, was instantly killed this morning at 10 o'clock.

Dickson, a machinist, with his partner, **William Trembath**, had gone into the mine to inspect pumps on the sixteenth level. Dickson went to the edge of the shaft and peered downward to see, if possible, the level of water in the mine.

Noise of the pumps evidently offset any rumble of the approaching cage, which Dickson could not have heard. Trembath was standing about three feet away when the cage struck Dickson's head, tearing away a portion of the skull.

According to Trembath it would have been impossible for Dickson to see the level of the water by peering over the edge of the shaft.

Employes [sic – Employees] of the mine are warned never to allow any portion of their body to project into the shaft space, it was said by officials.

### Inquest This Afternoon

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

**Coroner J.B. Erickson** ordered an inquest into the death of the mine victim this afternoon at 2 o'clock. The jury was impaneled and was to have visited the scene of the accident in the mine. It was expected that a verdict of accidental death would be returned by the jury.

Mr. Dickson, who was a resident of Iron Mountain for more than 45 years, was born in Sweden on November 8, 1860. He came here when a young man and had resided in the city since that time.

Upon his arrival here, he was employed as a surface worker at the mine. Several years later he was given a job as hoisting engineer, a position he held until several years ago when he was transferred to the machine shop.

Besides his widow, he is survived by two sons, **Ewald**, of Iron Mountain, and **Elmer**, of Chicago, and one daughter, Miss **Elvie**, also of Chicago. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.

Mr. Dickson was a member of the Iron Mountain lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows which may have charge of the funeral.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Monday, March 2, 1925], page \_\_\_\_, column \_\_\_\_

## FUNERAL WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY

### Jury Holds That Dickson Death Was Accidental

Funeral services for **Charles J. Dickson**, pioneer resident of Iron Mountain,

who was accidentally killed Saturday morning at the **Chapin mine**, will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home, 523 East B street. The **Rev. C.E. Schildt** will officiate and will be assisted by the **Rev. Ernest Brown**. Interment will be made at Cemetery park.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows will have charge of the funeral.

At the inquest ordered by **Coroner J.B. Erickson** Saturday afternoon, a verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury. The jury visited the scene of the accident on the sixteenth level of the **Hamilton shaft** where Mr. Dickson met death when a descending cage struck him in the head.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Thursday, March 19, 1925], page \_\_\_\_, column 1

## MINER IS KILLED BY FALLING ORE

### Fatal Accident Occurs on Fourteenth Level of Chapin

His head crushed by falling ore, **Olof Knutson**, 58, was believed to have been instantly killed this morning at 9 o'clock on the fourteenth level of the **Chapin mine**.

His partner, **Julius Erickson**, who was but a few feet away, miraculously escaped injury.

Knutson and Erickson were about to drill for a cave when the accident occurred. Knutson, who was handling the drilling machine, had scarcely placed the drill on the place to be excavated when the ore fell. A large piece of ore, which struck Knutson

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

on the head, was believed to have caused his death.

Erickson immediately rounded up a rescue crew and extricated his partner, who was pinned under a small pile of ore. It was first thought that Knutson was breathing but upon reaching surface it was found that life was extinct. Death was caused by a fracture of the skull, part of which had been torn away.

**Coroner J.B. Erickson** impaneled a jury this afternoon but the inquest will not be held until tomorrow morning, it was stated. The jury will visit the scene of the accident.

Mr. Knutson, who resided on Detroit avenue, had been a miner practically all his life. He came here in October, 1923, from Commonwealth, Wis., where he had been a mine employe [*sic* – *employee*] for the last 35 years.

He was born in Sweden and came to this country in 1890. He leaves to mourn his death his widow, four sons, **Hilding, Arnie, Edgar** and **Elmer**, all of Iron Mountain, and three daughters, Miss **Ethel Knutson**, who teaches school at Commonwealth, Miss **Elvira**, of this city, and Mrs. **Edward Hartmann**.

He is also survived by two brothers, **John**, of Iron Mountain, and **Andrew**, of Florence, Wis., and one sister, Mrs. **Mary Levine**, of Homestead. Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Friday, March 20, 1925], page 2, column 2

## KNUTSON DEATH WAS ACCIDENTAL

Coroner's Jury Brings In

## Verdict at Inquest This Morning

**Olof Knutson**, 58, who was killed yesterday morning in the **Chapin mine** where he was struck on the head by falling ore met death in an accidental manner according to a verdict rendered today by the jury sitting at the inquest conducted by **Coroner J.B. Erickson**.

Testimony was furnished by **Julius Erickson**, Knutson's partner, who escaped unhurt. The witness stated that he thought Knutson was killed by a large piece of rock about a foot square which landed squarely on his head.

Erickson also said that he and his partner had thoroughly inspected the place of work before they engaged in their day's toil. Erickson drilled the first hole into the breast of the drift and Knutson was about to drill another when the accident occurred. It is believed, Erickson stated, that the ore became loose overhead on account of the vibration caused by the machine when he was drilling.

The jury visited the scene of the accident this morning. Jurymen were **George Bodini** [*sic*], **Charles W. Johnson**, **Joseph Soderberg**, **Joseph Hambly**, **August Johnson** and **David Cocking**.

Funeral services for the accident victim will be held Sunday afternoon although complete arrangements have not yet been made. It was not known this morning whether church services would be held in Iron Mountain or Florence, Wis. Interment will be at the Commonwealth, Wis., cemetery.

Mr. Knutson was a member of the Scandinavian society, of Florence, which will have charge of the funeral.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6,

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

Number 54 [Monday, June 14, 1926],  
page 1, column 8; page 2, column 2

## SIX OVERCOME IN CHAPIN FIRE

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### BLAZE FOUND EARLY TODAY IN OLD SHAFT

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**Unconscious Men Revived  
And Suffer No  
Injury**

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### RESCUE CREWS AID

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**No Danger In Situation  
But Work Is Sus-  
pended**

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Six members of an exploration crew sent down the **Hamilton shaft** of the **Chapin mine** here shortly after 9 o'clock this morning to determine the source of a blaze discovered at a point between the sixteenth and eighteenth levels, were overcome by gas and smoke and revived only after vigorous artificial respiration had been applied. None was seriously affected, and all were still about the workings this afternoon, assisting in the work.

The men were **Fred Knight**, mining engineer, who fell to his knees while walking along the sixteenth level near the abandoned shaft wherein the blaze was later discovered; and **Sam Trethewey**,

**Joseph Graffe**, **A. Killinger**, **John Cesare** and **William Trembath**. Trembath, Graffe and Killinger are pump men, Cesare is a pipe man and Trethewey is head mine electrician and city electrical inspector.

It was a lucky turn of events which saved the life of Trembath. He was stationed at one of the pumps below the twelfth level and it was when crews working in the deeper levels sent for his help that he was found lying unconscious near his pump. He was rushed to the surface and revived.

#### **Day Crew Finds Smoke**

The presence of fire was discovered about 7:30 o'clock this morning, when the day shift of miners descended at the Hamilton shaft. As the cage dropped deeper and deeper smoke and gas became more apparent and was especially dense at the sixteenth level. The miners ventured into the drift at the sixteenth level only a few feet before returning to the cage and giving the signal to be hauled to surface, where they reported their discovery. The sixteenth level is 1,660 feet under ground.

The source of the fire was soon traced to the old shaft, which runs between the sixteenth and eighteenth levels and has not been in use for some time. The dried timbers at the shaft furnished excellent fuel for the flames.

The origin of the fire is unknown but it is believed it may have been caused by short circuited wires. More definite information was expected late this afternoon, when special crews, equipped with oxygen helmets and working in relays, return to the surface. The first of these crews descended into B shaft of the Chapin at about 1:30 o'clock this afternoon.

#### **Overcome by Fumes**

It was while working away from the burning shaft that the men were overcome by smoke and gas. Stories rivaling in thrills and interest those of the early mining days throughout the region, [sic] were told by

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

companions of the men after the incident. One of the party, overcome when only a part of the distance to the cage had been accomplished, pleaded to lie down and rest, but was dragged on by his companions. Another collapsed on the floor of the level, declaring he could go no farther. He

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

## Six Overcome In Chapin Mine Fire

(Continued from Page 1)

Was half carried and half dragged to the cage.

Fred Knight, mining engineer, remembered little of his own experience, declaring simply that he recalled only a tightening in his chest, and he fell to the ground. When he awoke, he said, men were working over him.

Others who were overcome declared that the first sensation they experienced was a weakening in the knees, when they felt they could not take another step. They were helped to the cage by companions.

### Mine Idle Sunday

Fortunately, no one was on duty in the mine last night, as it was Sunday. While a night crew, had it been working, might have been warned in time to reach the cage and ascend to safety, officials of the mine were grateful that no such hazard was presented to the workers.

Work at the Chapin was suspended today and there was no indication this afternoon how soon it would be resumed. Part of the exploration crews to go into the mine late this afternoon with oxygen helmets were instructed to direct water from the pumps on the sixteenth level into the burning shaft. The winze, or shaft, will be blocked at that point to prevent the fire, smoke and gas from spreading into the mine.

### An Interesting Scene

The scene about the mouth of Hamilton shaft early this morning, and continuing throughout much of the day, was an interesting one. As news of the situation spread the grounds about the shaft became strewn with cars and crowds of the curious hovered about waiting for developments, which came in the sight of five unconscious men being hauled out of the cage and the feverish efforts made to revive them.

Sprinkled among the spectators were friends and relatives of the exploration crews. They watched each signal anxiously. Three women – wives of members of the first crew to descend this morning, refused to leave the mouth of the shaft when ordered to do so by officials on duty there. They moved off a few feet, but stood in silence watching the huge cables for the signal that would bring their “men” back to safety.

It was estimated that by 1 o'clock this afternoon from 50 to 60 cars were parked about the shaft. Two special police from the Oliver Iron Mining company were pressed into service to segregate the cars and keep the crowds away from the shaft.

Officials could not say today whether work would be resumed tonight or tomorrow, depending entirely on the nature of the blaze and the condition of the lower levels when the fire has been extinguished.

Assurance was given by the officials that there is no immediate danger in the situation and that once the blaze is definitely [*sic – definitely*] located little difficulty will be experienced in getting it under control. Equipment for that purpose was lowered into the mine early this afternoon.

**HAMILTON MINE**  
Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## HAMILTON SHAFT Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 38 [Saturday, September 17, 1887], page 5, column 3

Fellows order, the Foresters and Knights of Sherwood. The funeral was held on Thursday.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 14 (Thursday, August 27, 1896), page 1, column 5

## DEATH IN A MINE.

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### A Former Resident of This City Killed at Iron Mountain.

**George Berryman**, a former resident of Florence, was accidentally killed at the **Hamilton shaft**, Iron Mountain, at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. The deceased was employed as a mining captain at the mine and had charge of the underground work. It appears that a few minutes before the hour named Capt. Berryman, accompanied by three of his men, went down the shaft to adjust the bell-rope in the middle compartment. Leaving his companions in a short drift near the bottom of the shaft, the captain went down the ladder-way to the bottom. Finishing his business below, he stepped into the ore bucket and signaled to be hoisted. When about one hundred feet from the bottom, the cross-head fell, knocking the unfortunate man from off the bucket to the ground below. His skull was shockingly crushed and both legs and arms were broken, death resulting almost instantaneously. Capt. Berryman lived in Florence several years and was employed as a timberman by the Florence Mining Company and superintended the work of sinking No. 4 shaft. He had many friends in this city and was universally liked by a large circle of acquaintances in Iron Mountain. The deceased leaves a wife and eight children. He was a member of the Odd

### Eight Hundred Feet.

**Fred Peterson**, an old and valued man of the **Chapin Mining company**, fell a distance of nearly eight hundred feet down the **Hamilton shaft** yesterday noon and was horribly mangled. The skull was crushed in and both arms and legs torn from the body. The deceased resided on Smith street and leaves a wife and one child – a son – to mourn his untimely death. He was one of our most prominent and influential Scandinavian citizens, and his death is generally regretted.

## KEEL RIDGE MINE Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

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

## A Monster Grave.

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

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### SIX WIDOWS AND THIRTEEN ORPHANS.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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The most terrible calamity that has visited the Menominee Range occurred a little after 1 o'clock Tuesday afternoon last, the Keel Ridge iron mine, owned and operated by the **Emmett Mining Company**, caving in and burying alive eight miners, six of whom were married and had in all thirteen children. As follows:

**William Henderson**, wife and four children.

**William Pollard**, wife and four children.

**John Morrish**, wife and one child.

**William Jeffery**.

**Thomas James**, wife and child.

**Alexander Helman**.

**Patrick Eagan**, wife, [sic]

**Richard Williams**, wife and three children.

The mine was considered worked out and the eight men, with one more named **Edward Wicks**, were engaged about the mouth of the shaft on the surface taking out the pumps, pipes, landers, etc., preparatory to abandoning it, when, without warning of any kind, the whole face of ground covering the underground workings fell in engulfing them and the boiler house near by [sic – nearby], and forming a huge sink hole sixty feet deep, one hundred wide, and one hundred and fifty in length. A re-echoing crash that shook the settlement, a cloud of dust that for an instant obscured the sun, and all was over. The whole village frantic with apprehension were [sic – was] out in a twinkling and there was an awful cry, "The mine! The mine! – it has fallen in!" In a moment the brink of the yawning abyss was lined with terror-stricken men, women, and children, whose white, anxious faces, peering into the depths, told of awful fear and agony. Of the nine only one struggling victim could be seen, striving to free himself from the weight of earth and rock, which had broken one of his legs and ribs. He was Ed. Wicks. Somehow he had been

thrown up from the immense mass, and men were lowered down to him by ropes and carried him up in their arms, and he was laid down crushed and bleeding, but thankful. Not a vestige of his eight companions was discernable anywhere, and even the boiler house with its great boilers was nowhere visible, and only a few splinters and a small jet of steam issuing from the debris told it was there.

The alarm spread quickly and within an hour or two there were nearly a thousand people at the scene of the disaster, among them the entire force of miners of the **Chapin**, the **Menominee Mining company** ordering the suspension of work at this mine in order its men might assist its ill-fated neighbor. The work of erecting derricks and setting up hoisting machinery brought from the Chapin was speedily commenced. It is calculated that a month or more will be consumed hoisting the mass before the first body will be uncovered, even allowing that the remains lie but midway in the great heap and not nearer the bottom as may be the case. There is practically nothing on which to base a calculation as to how deep the bodies lie buried.

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

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# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 16 [Saturday, April 14, 1883], page 1, column 6

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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

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

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

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

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

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume IV, Number 25 [Saturday, June 21, 1884], page 1, column 6

## MINING NEWS.

“Now they won't get a darned cent,” was the reply made by **Samuel Kimberly**, the good-natured **president of the Emmett**

**Mining Co.**, to a MINING NEWS reporter, who inquired of him about the **Keel Ridge damage suits**. He continued: “We would have done well by them, not given them a fortune, but seen that they did not come to want, if they hadn't commenced troublesome litigation. Now we won't give them a cent. They commenced the fight and it is cheaper for us to fight them than take care of them. We would have given each of the widows a house and lot in Iron Mountain and more; not in the furtherance of justice, but through generosity. I don't believe they ever would have commenced suit if it hadn't been for the bad advice of some shyster. They can't collect a cent, because legally they are not entitled to one. I have had men hurt in my employe [*sic* – *employ*]; one fell down a shaft, another broke his leg. It wasn't my fault, but I paid their wages right along, paid all their doctor bills and saw that their families were cared for.” In response to the query as to whether the company would erect a monument over the wholesale grave at Keel Ridge, Mr. Kimberly answered in the negative.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 630 [Friday, July 22, 1898], page 3, column 4

## KILLED AT KEEL RIDGE.

### A Polish Miner Meets His Death at an Early Hour This Morning.

**Michael Solaskie** [*sic* – *Michel Driterski*], a Pole, met his death this morning at 4 o'clock while shoveling ore at the **Concentrating Works** of the **Pewabic mine** at **Keel Ridge**.

The unfortunate man was working in an open pit, the wall being on a slant. About

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

200 pounds of rock fell upon him and he was almost instantly killed, his injuries being in the side and about the head. Just before the rock fell some fellow workmen, seeing the danger, called to him to look out, but he seemed to pay no attention to their warning. From all reports the man's death was purely an accident and no blame can be attached to the mine.

**Coroner Cudlip** was called early to the scene and decided to hold an inquest, and for this purpose impanelled a jury. A telegram was sent to **Attorney Trudell**, who represented the company, and an answer received that he would be here Monday morning, at which time the inquest will be held.

Solaskie used to live in this city and is well known. For a long time he beat the drum in the Salvation Army. He has no family so far as is known.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 631 [Saturday, July 23, 1898], page 3, column 2

## CITY NEWS ITEMS.

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The funeral of **Michel Driterski**, the miner who was killed at the **Concentrating Works** yesterday[,] was held this afternoon from the Salvation Army barracks.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 632 [Monday, July 25, 1898], page 3, column 2

## CITY NEWS ITEMS.

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The inquest over the death of **Michael Sriterski**, who was killed at the **Concentrating works**, was held this

morning by **Coroner Cudlip**. A verdict of accidental death was returned. The following was a list of jurors: **A.D. Stiles, W.H. Martin, Theo. Firme, Frank Harwood, L.M. Hanson** [sic – **Hansen**] and **George Irving**.

## LUDINGTON MINE

Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

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

### Range Items.

—On Thursday morning at 3 o'clock, a **cave-in** occurred at the **Ludington mine**, by which **two men lost their lives** and a third was severely if not fatally injured. The shaft, at the bottom of which the men were working, had been timbered down to the rock, and was considered safe, but the water had worked down outside the timbering and so loosened the earth that the timbering was crushed inward and some fifteen or twenty tons of earth precipitated to the bottom, where the men were caught and buried. We have not yet heard the names of the men, but hope to do so before we go to press. Apart from the loss of life, the accident is of little account, and will not delay the shipment of ore from the mine, as the shaft is cleared before now and the timbering repaired and further strengthened.

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

### Range Items.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 28 [Saturday, June 18, 1881], page 1, column 3

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

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 20 [Saturday, June 20, 1885], page 1, column 1

**Pat. O'Brien**, known as "**Buster**," formerly of East Vulcan, was killed by a cave-in at the **Ludington mine** Thursday night.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 21 [Saturday, June 27, 1885], page 1, column 2

The funeral of **Patrick O'Brien**, who was killed in the **Ludington mine** Thursday of last week, took place from St. Mary's Catholic church Saturday forenoon, and was quite largely attended.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 21

[Saturday, June 27, 1885], page 1, column 5

The **Ludington mine** appears to be very unfortunate of late in the way of accidents. Two men, **John Maline** and **Andrew Johnson**, fell into a winze Tuesday last, a distance of about 100 feet, Maline being almost instantly killed and Johnson receiving injuries which caused his death the following day.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 31 [Saturday, September 5, 1885], page 1, column 4

## IRON MOUNTAIN MELANGE.

**Peter Langeuish**, a Frenchman, was seriously hurt at the **Ludington mine** Tuesday afternoon. He was removing a log that covered room 7, when he lost his balance and fell through the lagging a distance of forty-five feet.

*Menominee Democrat*, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 29 [Saturday, May 22, 1886], page 5, column 4

## GLEANINGS.

**Bernard Samuelson**, a Swede miner working at the **Ludington mine**, was run over by an ore train at Iron Mountain on Monday evening, and instantly killed. He leaves a wife and three children in Sweden. The railroad company is blamed for not having a flagman at the crossing where Samuelson was killed.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 39 [Saturday, October 29, 1887], page 4, column 2

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## MINE ACCIDENT.

On Saturday of last week a man named **Charles Anderson**, an unmarried Swede, working with the timbermen at the **Ludington mine**, met his death in **room No. 2 of No. 5 shaft**. Deceased was engaged with others in lagging over a set of timber when a large body of ore turned out of the “side” and crushed him to death. An inquest was held on Monday before **Justice Devere**, and a verdict of accidental death, was rendered.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 51 [Saturday, January 19, 1889], page 1, column 6

## ACCIDENTS.

Monday forenoon **John Benson**[,] who was working with the timber crew at the **Ludington mine**, fell into a winze and was fatally injured. It appears from the testimony at the inquest held, that Benson with six others were [*sic – was*] working at the 7th level of “A” shaft, that it became necessary to put a new piece of lagging in one of the chutes, that the boss timberman took the measure for the piece needed, with a staff, handed the staff to Benson and told him to get a piece, that Benson went to a winze a few feet distant which was partially covered, and began measuring a piece of flat lagging which had been used in covering the winze, that one of his partners who was straightening a spike, about five feet away from him, said “look out for the winze,” that just then Benson disappeared down the winze which was about 55 ft. deep. It was further shown that the winze was less than five feet wide and about six feet long, that the east side of the winze was open for the ladderway to the room below, that the remaining portion was covered by four or five pieces of flat

lagging, not less than ten inches wide, that the piece furthest from the ladderway – on the west side – had been turned back and that deceased was measuring this piece to see if it would answer his purpose, and that the hole through which he fell was from 13 to 15 inches wide and about six feet long, and that deceased knew of the existence of the winze, having helped to send down timber through it and to cover it when done, and that a pile of lagging lay not more than 40 ft. from the chute from which he could have chosen a piece. The jury[, ] composed of Messrs. **James Moriarity**, **Charles Freeman**, **William Sundstrom**, **William Peterson**, **W.P. Bray** and **Samuel Shields**, accompanied by the mine inspector[, ] visited and examined the placed, Tuesday, and after listening to the evidence given by the partners of the deceased, the jury rendered a verdict that “the deceased came to his death by accidentally falling down a winze at the Ludington mine, and that the Lumbermen’s Mg. Co., was exonerated from all blame, [*sic – .*]” The deceased lived but a few minutes after being taken out and it was found that his back was broken and several bones fractured. He was a single man, about 36 years of age and a native of Sweden. The remains were buried at Quinnesec, Tuesday afternoon. This is the first fatal accident which has occurred at the Ludington during fifteen months, and it would seem that troubles never come singly, for on Tuesday morning **John Williams**[, ] one of the shaftmen at “A” shaft[, ] was knocked from a ladder into the shaft a depth of 25 ft. by the bucket, and sustained a fracture of one of his legs, and other injuries. Williams was about to blast with a battery, had made connections below and was coming up, but had failed to ring to keep the bucket up, and it was being lowered as usual with the above result. It is hoped that the broken bone will prove the most serious injury.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 52 [Saturday, January 26, 1889], page 8, column 2

## RAMBLINGS.

### Iron Mountain.

Friday of last week, **George Doane**, a young man working with his father at the **Ludington mine**, fell into a winze through which he had just ascended in a bucket, and received very serious injuries. It was at first thought that nothing could be done to preserve his life, but at this writing (Wednesday) he has become conscious and there is much hope that his life will be spared. The winze through which he rode is used only to send tools up to the blacksmithshop [*sic – blacksmith shop*] in the level above, and the young man[,] who was on his way to dinner[,] could have come through another winze (as did his father) in which there is a ladderway. It is supposed that he attempted to spring from the bucket before it had stopped. He fell 95 feet, although only a portion of the distance was downright.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume V, Number 17 [Saturday, May 25, 1889], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

On the same day [*Thursday of last week*] a member of the timber crew at the **Ludington**, named **Joseph Powlaski**[,] was killed by a fall of ground. The deceased was at work in a narrow room[,] a set of timber had been put in and lagged about 2 ft. of space between the lagging and the back, which was known to be heavy. As the room was about a set and a half wide[,] it was necessary to put in a

short set of timber and preparations were being made to send it down a winze close by, when deceased and partners[,] who were standing on the next set below, heard some small pieces fall, and deceased tried to run from one side of the set to the other, when a mass of ore weighing from 15 to 20 tons fell, breaking the top lagging, crushing the lagging of the second set and throwing deceased two sets further down the room. He lived but a short time after being taken out.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume VI, Number 14 [Saturday, May 10, 1890], page 1, column 5

### Another Mine Accident.

Thursday morning at six o'clock the west cage in "C" shaft at the **Ludington mine** was allowed to run 300 ft. with 9 men in it, and when it struck the bottom one man was found to have sustained a compound fracture of the knee joint, another a broken arm, and five others were slightly injured. The names of those on the cage were **S. Terrill**, foreman; **P. Fabits**, **S. Verbants**, **A. Merryfield**, **S. Merryfield**, **M. Mascottie**, **C. Ginalme**, **M. Monkari** and **L. Dalpero**. Fabits has a fractured leg and may not recover from the shock. Monkari has a broken arm. As to the cause of the accident, nothing positive can be learned at this time, except that a new brakeman had been hired, who had been all night at the drums learning from one of the older hands. At six o'clock when the men were being brought up a signal was given to lower the west cage from the 6th to the 9th level and the new man undertook to lower the cage and let it get away from him, and failed to check it sufficiently before it struck the 9th level "pentis." It appears that the boss, **Sam Terrill**[,] had 8 men at the 6th and after loading them on he thought he would go to

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

the 9th and fill the cage, before going to surface, and he was on the cage himself, making the 9th man. As there are many different versions of the cause and result of the accident, THE CURRENT reserves any opinion until it can obtain positive proof, and will give its readers next week, a clear unvarnished version of the matter.

## MILLIE MINE

Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVIII, Number 23 [Saturday, September 26, 1896], page 1, column 4

## A FATAL BLAST.

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**James Harris Met With an Awful Accident Which Resulted in Death.**

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**LEAVES A LARGE FAMILY.**

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**Hand Blown off. Piece of Rock Pentrates [sic – Penetrates]the Brain. Both Eyes Filled With Powder. Lived Two Hours After the Accident And Suffered Untold Agony.**

---

**James Harris**, a miner, met with a fatal accident at the **Millie mine** shortly before six o'clock Wednesday. Harris was setting the last blast for the day and was alone at the time. It is presumed that he was

tamping the charge preparatory to adjusting and lighting the fuse when, for some mysterious and unaccountable reason, the blast went off prematurely. This theory seems plausible by reason of the injuries resulting from the accident. When taken to the hospital Doctors Cameron, Crowell, and Cruse were called and found the right hand blown entirely off, and a hole four inches deep and the size of a twenty five cent piece directly in the center of the forehead. A small piece of rock was found embedded in the head which penetrated the brain. The man's face was as black as coal from the charge of powder and both eyes were entirely destroyed.

The poor man suffered untold agony and his screams and groans could be heard for several blocks. The physicians did all in their power to relieve the sufferer during the progress of the painful operation, but death alone was all that could possibly end the terrible agony, and it came as a welcome relief two hours after the accident occurred.

The deceased leaves a wife and six children, the oldest a school boy the youngest 5 years old.

Mr. Harris was always a hard working and energetic man, a loving husband and a kind father. In recent years he had met with financial reverses, being unable to get steady employment. He was a faithful member of the Methodist church and will be buried from there tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock.

The coroner's jury met Wednesday afternoon, and after listening to the evidence of the several witnesses returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had met death accidentally.

The funeral of James Harris, the man who was killed Tuesday at the Millie mine, took place from the Central M.E. Church Thursday afternoon. Many mourning friends paid their last respect [sic – respects] to the deceased and the church

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

was crowded with fellow workmen of the unfortunate miner.

The large family of the deceased are to be pitied in the fact that they have been robbed of a loving and kind husband and father, and in the midst of their financial distress, the soul [sic – sole] source of their meager income.

The owners of the Millie mine are generous, however, and will see to it that the poor widow and children of their faithful employe [sic – employee] will not want.

The pall bearers [sic – pallbearers] were Jas. Trevillian, Jas. Roberts, Thos. Nichols, Wm. Hicks, Wm. Richards, Wm. Oliver.

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVIII, Number 25 [Saturday, October 10, 1896], page 1, column 2

## FELL FORTY FEET.

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**John Anderson Is Lying In St. George's Hospital With a Broken Hip and Terribly Bruised.**

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## TELLS CONFLICTING STORIES.

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**Found at the Bottom of a Pit at the Millie Mine. Was Enjoying a Smoke From His Corn Cob Pipe. A Very Mysterious Case. Thought to Have Been Drunk at the Time of The Accident.**

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(From Tuesday's Daily.)

Monday morning shortly after 5 o'clock the watchman at the **Millie mine** discovered a man sitting at the bottom of a forty foot pit apparently enjoying the sweet odor of a quantity of peerless [sic – Peerless], which burnt like incense, from a well worn corn cob pipe. A companion stood by, and when the watchman appeared called on him to assist in getting the man out. **Capt. Chas. McGregor** was summoned, and after a hurried examination concluded the man had been injured. He refused to talk, and nothing could be gained as to the cause of his injuries.

His face was bleeding from several wounds and the man was unable to walk and utterly helpless. An express wagon was called and the injured man was taken to St. George's hospital.

Here he gave the name of **John Anderson** and claimed to be a miner. He stated that he and his companion, whose name is **John Norquist**, were inspecting the pit merely out of curiosity, when he missed his footing and rolled to the bottom. To some he says this happened at 7, o'clock [sic – 7 o'clock], while relating the story to others he claims it occurred at 5 o'clock. **Dr. Crowell** was called in and found that the man's hip was dislocated and he was otherwise injured, which made his escape from death something more than miraculous.

The supposition is that the two men were intoxicated and strolled in the vicinity of the mine. Anderson ventured to [sic – too] close too [sic – to] the opening of the pit, and in his drunken condition he rolled to the bottom, where he was found by the watchman.

During the night the watchman discovered a blaze among a pile of waste which was in a corner of the engine house. This has given rise to the theory that the men walked into the engine house, lighted

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

their pipes and accidentally caused the fire discovered later by the watchman.

On discovering what they had done they rushed from the building and Anderson, in his endeavor to escape, had plunged headlong into the pit.

This is the most plausible theory, but as no information can be gained from the injured man and his companion cannot be found, the real truth of the affair may ever remain a mystery.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 586 [Wednesday, June 1, 1898], page 2, column 2

## Fredrickson's Injuries.

**Taylor Fredrickson**, the man who met with the accident at the **Millie mine** yesterday afternoon, was more seriously injured than was at first supposed. He suffered a fracture of the skull and he is otherwise injured about the body. He suffered much pain all last night, but the doctors think he will recover notwithstanding his injuries.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 11 [Thursday, August 2, 1900], page 1, column 4

## A SAD ACCIDENT.

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### Thomas Barnes Had His Back Broken by a Fall From the Millie Mine Trestle.

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**Thomas Barnes**, a married man, residing on Quinnesec street, met with an accident last Monday afternoon which will cost him his life, it is feared. Barnes was

employed as pocket man at the **Millie mine**. He had run down three cars and dumped them in the pocket at the east end of Fleshiem street. The last car he neglected to fasten after dumping, and, when the empty cars were returned, he sat on the one which was not fastened and the side dropped, throwing him over the trestle. He fell a distance of twenty feet[,] landing on his back on a ledge of rock and rolled down an embankment about thirty feet to the North-Western tracks where he struck on one of the rails in such a manner as to break his back.

Barnes was taken to St. George's Hospital, where an operation was performed by **Dr. Crowell** to relieve the paralysis of the lower limbs, but his chances of recovery are considered small.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 22 [Thursday, October 21, 1909], page 1, column 5

## Fatality at Millie.

**Donato Agrella**, a young man, twenty years of age, was accidentally killed at the **Millie mine** last Thursday afternoon. He was trimming down the side of a stope and attempted to pry off a large piece of rock with a bar when it suddenly gave way and fell on him, crushing his head and killing him instantly. The young man had been in this country only three months and was working as helper with a miner, who advised him to keep away from that side of the stope as it was not safe.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 23 [Thursday, October 28, 1909], page 1, column 6

## FATALITY AT THE MILLIE.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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## A Fall of Ore Causes the Death of a Miner Last Tuesday.

**Alfred Vercellino**, a miner employed at the Millie mine, was fatally injured last Tuesday forenoon by a fall of ground and died from his injuries last Tuesday night about 11:00 o'clock.

Vercellino and his partner were working in a stope. A hole had been blasted and the men were barring down some loose ground when a large piece of overhanging ore came down suddenly and struck Vercellino on the right thigh[, ] knocking him down and causing a compound fracture of the the [sic] thigh-bone [sic – *thighbone*]. After falling, he rolled down [a] fifty-foot incline and the piece of ore rolled over him, inflicting internal injuries, which caused his death.

Vercellino was thirty-five years of age and leaves a wife and two children in Italy. He was a member of several Italian societies and recently came to the city from Bessemer. This is the second fatality at the Millie mine in less than two weeks.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 10 [Thursday, July 27, 1911], page 1, column 1

## Fatality at Millie.

**Massi Emiliano** [sic – *Emiliano Massi*], an Italian miner, was killed at the **Millie mine** last Friday night. He is thirty-five years of age and leaves a wife and two children, who reside in Italy. Emiliano and a helper named **Emedio Lupini** were working in a stope on the third level, when the ground above them suddenly gave way and Emiliano was buried beneath it. Lupini was caught by the ground falling on his feet and legs but escaped injury, leaving his

boots under the mass of ore. The accident happened about eleven o'clock Friday night and Emiliano's body was recovered at seven o'clock Saturday morning. Emiliano was a favorite among his countrymen and will be sadly missed by a large circle of friends.

## PEWABIC MINE

Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVI, Number 27 [Saturday, October 27, 1894], page 1, column 5

## ONLY ONE KILLED.

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### The Eleven Entombed Miners at the Pewabic Rescued This Morning.

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The most terrible accident in the history of Iron Mountain mines occurred at the Pewabic at three o'clock Thursday afternoon.

One man was crushed to death and eleven others, all well-known and highly respected citizens, were entombed nearly forty hours in the drift.

Following is a complete list of the men entombed:

**THOMAS PENGLASE,**  
**WILLIAM OLIVER,**  
**SAMUEL HUSBAND,**  
**GEORGE WILCOX,**  
**STEPHEN ALLEN,**  
**WILLIAM BAIRD,**  
**GEORGE PARENT,**  
**JOHN THOMAS,**  
**GEORGE RICKARD,**  
**PETER HELLBERG,**

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## JOHN FORELL.

In the opinion of **Supt. Brown** the accident was caused by settling in an old room, one hundred feet in height, above the third level. This settling dislodged the sandstone capping, overhanging the room, which came away with sufficient force to crush the supporting timbers without warning, trapping the men at work on the fourth level like mice in a trap.

In endeavoring to rush from under the falling mass, **Peter Gabardi** was caught and crushed to death. He is a brother of the senior alderman of the first ward.

As soon afterward as possible, all work in the mine was brought to a standstill, and the work of rescue vigorously commenced, Supt. Brown taking personal charge of operations.

The distance from the mouth of the shaft to the room in which the men were confined is only about thirty feet, but in order to reach them it became necessary to drive a tunnel through the dislodged mass of timber, rock and ore. This was slow work. Broken timbers had to be blasted and hundreds of tons of rock and ore removed and new timbers had to be placed to prevent another cave-in. Not more than a foot an hour was driven, and it was not until noon yesterday that it was known to certainty that any of the imprisoned were alive. At this time communication was established by means of signaling with a hammer.

The rescue became an accomplished fact between six and seven o'clock this morning, and the eleven men, who had been imprisoned for more than forty hours, were hoisted to the surface as sound as a dollar, and are now in the bosom of their families.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 39 [Saturday, October 27, 1894], page 1, column 4

## A CAVE IN.

### Eleven Miners Entombed in the Pewabic Mine.

The miners, timbermen, trammers and others descended underground in the **Pewabic mine**, Thursday morning as usual, going to their several different places to work. About three hours after the midday meal, two trammers at work on the 4th level of No. 1 shaft, heard something crack above them. One of them ran and the other, **Frank Garavaglio**, attempted to push the car toward the shaft, when down came the dirt with a loud crash, burying him instantly. The fellow who escaped, terrified, trembling and white as a sheet, informed the men at the shaft that something was wrong, and an investigation was at once instituted. Gangs of men were soon at work, shoveling away, and when they uncovered the poor trammer, life was found to be extinct. The deceased was married, leaving a widow and five children. Inside were eleven others, – what had become of them, was the unanswerable question. The men then plied their picks and shovels with renewed vigor, and as soon as they became fatigued, fresh and willing hands took their places. The work was kept up unceasingly, but thousands of tons of dirt had fallen, and it required time to remove such a tremendous amount of stuff, in so limited and yet so great a space – thirty feet wide. The room the men were entombed in was seven sets high, and a distance of 1,000 feet from the shaft. Yesterday forenoon encouragement was given by taps being heard on the air pipes, telling that somebody was alive. How the rescuers did work. Who knew what the entombed

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

suffered, – some might have found relief through death, others possibly suffering from injuries, and their pleadings in vain. Then the anxious and dependent ones above. It is impossible to portray the feelings that existed. Thankful to say, accident so this nature are few, but when they do occur it is sufficient for a lifetime to all. The names of those who were entombed are:

<b>Stephen Allen.</b>	<b>Thomas Penglase.</b>
<b>George Marcue.</b>	<b>Samuel Husband.</b>
<b>George Rickard.</b>	<b>John Thomas.</b>
<b>William Beard.</b>	<b>Pete Hellberg.</b>
<b>John Terrill.</b>	<b>George Wilcox.</b>
<b>W.M. Oliver.</b>	

The fall of ground was not caused through the neglect of any person. It was timbered as securely as any other part of the mine, and was examined but a short time previously. As the rescuers proceeded in their work, timbermen followed closely behind them and retimbered. No mine is made more secure than the Pewabic, and when an accident does take place, it may be depended upon, it is not through neglect of the officers.

LATER – All the miners were rescued this morning at 6 a.m. Some of them suffered terrible agony, as may be imagined, but all were alive. They were entombed thirty-nine hours.

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVI, Number 29 [Saturday, November 10, 1894], page 8, column 4

Protographs [*sic* – *Photographs*] of the eleven men that were entombed in the **Pewabic mine** can be had at **S. Mortenson's** [*sic* – *Mortensen's*] gallery or at Arthur Flatt's news depot.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1,

Number 3 [Thursday, June 11, 1896], page 1, column 3

At the **Pewabic mine**, last Tuesday evening, **Dionesio Grassi**, a miner, had an exceedingly narrow escape from a horrible death. He was coming up in the cage with some long drills, with the bonnet of the cage raised up. When part way up the bonnet fell down, knocking one of the drills against the side of the shaft. The collision which followed threw Grassi between the cage and wall plate, and when found he was hanging by one foot over the cage into the shaft. Had the landsman not heard the noise, and promptly stopped the cage, Grassi would have been dashed to pieces many feet below. As it was his jaw was fractured and his body bruised somewhat.

LATER – Grassi's injuries proved more serious than was thought and he died last night at the **Pewabic hospital**. He must have been injured internally. The accident was the result of his own carelessness and could not have occurred had he taken the usual precaution and tied the drills together.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 3 [Thursday, June 10, 1897], page 1, column 3

**Sabastini Aluni**, a trammer at the **Pewabic mine**, fell forty feet last Saturday afternoon, striking on his head, and was instantly killed. He was engaged in filling up a room, when the timbers supporting the track gave way. Aluni was about thirty years of age and had no relatives in this country. **Supt. Brown** is informed, however, that he has a wife and family in Italy. The funeral was held on Monday from the Italian church.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

No. 603 [Tuesday, June 21, 1898], page 3, column 2

## ACCIDENT AT THE PEWABIC.

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### Joseph Trottier, a Sawyer, is Whirled Around a Shaft.

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Yesterday afternoon **Joseph Trottier**, a Frenchman, working as a sawyer at the **Pewabic mine**, attempted to adjust a belt that had slipped from the pulleys. In some manner his clothing caught in the belt just as it began to revolve. Trottier was drawn up to the shaft and whirled around several times before being rescued by his fellow workmen. At first it was thought the man was dead but he revived and was removed at once to the company's hospital, where **Dr. Bangs** gave him medical attendance.

It was found that he had sustained a compound fracture of the right forearm and had a serious wound under the arm, besides receiving a terrible shaking up. Notwithstanding his injuries the man passed a good night and this morning was resting comfortably with good prospects of complete recovery. Trottier is a Frenchman and lives with his family at **406 Lake street**.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 7 [Thursday, July 5, 1900], page 1, column 3

## FATALITY AT THE PEWABIC.

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### Cage Drops Sixty Feet With James Bennets, Causing His Death.

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**James Bennets** [*sic* – *Bennetts*], a young man about 19 years old, met with an accident at the **Pewabic** last Saturday night which resulted in his death. He had come to the surface to make some inquiry about a certain grade of ore, and as he stepped into a car to go down, bid some companions, who were standing near, good-bye. He rang the cage down, and immediately after those standing on the surface heard a crash. They rang up the other cage and went down slowly looking for the cause. When down about 100 feet they found the cage held by the grippers to the frame of the shaft, and Bennetts pinned in between the iron cage. They went up again and got help and took him out. He was still alive and was sent to the hospital where he died soon after of his injuries. It is thought that the accident was caused by the cage catching in some way at the surface until the rope slackened, when it fell down the shaft until stopped by the grippers, and that the sudden stop threw Bennetts out of the car, which fell back on him causing internal injuries from which he afterward died. He leaves a widowed mother, five brothers and two sisters.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 31 [Thursday, December 27, 1900], page 4, column 6

## BRIEF CITY NEWSITES.

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**James Pascoe**, shift boss at the **Pewabic**, met with what might have been a fatal accident, [*sic*] last Thursday. While working at the eighth level, a fall of ground struck him on the back, bruising him painfully, but breaking no bones. Had it not been for the fact that the fall broke before it reached Mr. Pascoe, he would probably have been killed.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 4 [Thursday, June 20, 1901], page 1, column 3*

## DIED ON THE OPERATING TABLE.

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**Antonio Gamboria**, who was one of [the] men injured in the accident at the **Pewabic mine** a few months ago, went to Menominee last Saturday to have an operation performed. One eye was blown out in the accident by the discharge of a blast that had missed fire [sic – misfired], and the sight of the second eye was injured. It was thought that an operation might restore the sight of the second eye. Gamboria was placed on the operating table and chloroform administered as an anaesthetic [sic – anesthetic]. Before he was under the influence of the drug enough to permit of the operation being commenced he succumbed. The death certificate is signed by **Dr. Walter P. Hicks**. Gamboria was thirty-one years old and leaves a widow and family.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 9 [Thursday, July 14, 1904], page 1, column 6*

## KILLED BY A FALL.

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### **Hector LaPage Drops from a Smoke-Stack at the Pewabic.**

At the **Pewabic mine**, last Thursday evening, **Hector LaPage** [sic – La Page] fell from a smoke-stack [sic – smokestack], a distance of about thirty-five feet, and received injuries that resulted in his death the following day. Mr. La Page was engaged in painting the stack at the time. It

is thought that he did not get the hook firmly placed over the top of the stack and it slipped. Death was caused by a rupture in the brain.

Mr. LaPage [sic – La Page] was one of the best known young men in the city. He was twenty-nine years of age and leaves a wife and one child. He was a member of the Modern Woodmen and Catholic Order of Foresters. In the first named society he carried \$3,000 worth of insurance and in the latter \$1,000. He was also a member of the Pewabic mine club and his wife will receive \$400 from that source. Mr. LaPage [sic – La Page] was a member of old Company L and accompanied that organization to Cuba during the war with Spain.

The funeral was held on Sunday afternoon from St. Joseph's church, **Rev. Father Terrien**, of Niagara, preaching the sermon. The attendance was very large and included the societies named and many of his old comrades at arms.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 11, Number 11 [Thursday, August 2, 1906], page 1, column 6*

### **Miner Killed.**

**Giuseppe Altobello**, a miner at the **Pewabic mine**, was accidentally killed about 2:30 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon while at work on the seventh level. He was picking up his tools, getting ready to blast, when a large chunk of ore became detached from the stope and sliding down pinned him fast to some timbers, crushing him to death. He was about thirty years of age and leaves a wife and two small children.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 11,*

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

Number 18 [Thursday, September 20, 1906], page 1, column 4

## Fatality This Morning.

**August Jeancola** [*sic – Giancola*], a young man, twenty years of age, was accidentally killed at the **Pewabic mine** about nine o'clock this forenoon. He was standing near the shaft on the sixth level. The cage was hoisted up a short distance, when Jeancola [*sic – Giancola*], leaning forward over the edge of the shaft[,] was struck on the back of the head and knocked him down the shaft. He fell to the seventh level and was instantly killed. The young man has a brother, Andrew Jeancola, residing in the city. His parents reside in Italy.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 14 [Thursday, August 25, 1910], page 1, column 4

## GUST JOHNSON IS DEAD.

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### Miner Stabbed at Pewabic Mine Dies Yesterday in Chicago.

**Gust Johnson**, a Finnish miner, employed at the **Pewabic mine**, was stabbed with a miner's candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*] by **Guiseppe Spigarelli**, a fellow workman, last Saturday evening about six o'clock.

Johnson died yesterday at the Augustana Hospital, in Chicago, where he had been taken for treatment and the body arrived here this morning.

Just before six o'clock on the day named, about sixty miners were sitting around No.[.] 2 shaft, waiting to be lowered down to their work. Johnson and Spigarelli became engaged in a friendly scuffle.

Johnson handled the latter a little roughly, tearing some of his clothing. This angered Spigarelli and he trust [*sic – thrust*] his candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*] into Johnson's abdomen, penetrating the liver.

When Spigarelli realized what he had done he ran away and secreted himself behind a coal-pile [*sic – coal pile*] near the **Hamilton shaft**, where he was afterward found by **Polisman** [*sic – Policeman*] **Larson** and placed under arrest.

**Dr. S.E. Cruse** was summoned to attend the injured man and took him to St. George's Hospital, where an operation was performed.

Last Tuesday night Johnson was sent to the Augustana Hospital at Chicago by the Finnish Society, of which he was a member.

Spigarelli is being held in custody.

It is alleged that the cut re-opened during the hard night trip to Chicago and that when Johnson was received at the hospital several inches of his intestines were protruding through the wound, and his death followed in a few hours.

Johnson was about thirty-four years of age and is survived by a wife and several small children.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 15 [Thursday, September 1, 1910], page 4, column 1

### Spigarelli Case.

**B.P. Barasa**, the famous Chicago criminal lawyer, is in the city to-day [*sic – today*]. He has been engaged to assist **John B. Calvi** in the case of **Guiseppe Spigarelli**, the Italian who is charged with causing the death by stabbing with a candle-stick [*sic – miner's candlestick*] of **Gust Johnson**, at the **Pewabic mine**. The examination, which was to have been held this morning, has been postponed until next

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

Wednesday at the request of Mr. Barasa. It is expected that, at this time, a number of Chicago physicians, including the coroner's assistant who held the autopsy, will be present. We believe that the defense will contend that Johnson's death was not caused by the wound – that he would not have died had he not been removed from Iron Mountain to Chicago.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 17 [Thursday, September 15, 1910], page 1, column 3*

## SPIGARELLI CASE

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### PRISONER'S ATTORNEYS BUILDING A PLEA OF SELF- DEFENSE.

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#### Will Allege That Johnson Fell on a Candle-Stick While Scuffling With the Prisoner.

The examination of **Guiseppi** [*sic – Guiseppe*] **Spigarelli**[,] charged with the death of **Gust Johnson**, was held in **Justice Woodward's** court last Friday and Saturday and attracted a large number of spectators.

**Bernard P. Barasa**, the talented young Italian criminal lawyer from Chicago[,], and **John Calvi** represented the prisoner in court and **Prosecuting Attorney Henderson** appeared for the people.

Twenty-eight witnesses in all were examined and the testimony was very conflicting.

It was evident from the line of questioning pursued by the attorneys for the prisoner, [*sic*] that it will be contended

that Johnson was killed by Spigarelli in self-defense; also, that, [*sic*] Spigarelli did not stab Johnson with the miner's candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*], as is charged in the information; but that, during the scuffle between the two men, Johnson fell on the candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*], which Spigarelli was holding in his hand, with such force as to drive it into his (Johnson's) abdomen inflicting the wound that caused death.

A number of the witnesses testified to this effect – that when the men clinched and fell between two logs with Johnson on top, Spigarelli made no movement to stab with the candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*]. It is the contention, too, that Johnson was the aggressor and that Spigarelli was defending himself from assault at the time the wound was inflicted, either accidental or intentional.

Other witnesses, equally as positive in their testimony, declared that Johnson and Spigarelli were not clinched at the time the blow was struck; that Spigarelli rushed at Johnson and stabbed him with the candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*] when nearly an arm's length distance.

This testimony was given by the fellow-workmen [*sic – fellow workmen*] of Johnson and Spigarelli. All agreed that the stabbing was the outcome of a good-natured scuffle. It will be remembered that the men gathered at the shaft-mouth [*sic – shaft mouth*] at the **Pewabic No. 1 shaft** preparatory to a resuming [*of*] work underground on Saturday evening, August 20th. A good-natured "joshing match" was followed by a friendly scuffle between the two men during which Spigarelli was worsted and had his clothing torn. It was at this time the stabbing took place.

**Dr. Henry G.W. Reinhardt**, of Chicago, who swore that he was the physician for the coroner of Cook county, Illinois, and that he had held the Johnson autopsy at the Augustana Hospital, where death occurred

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

[sic – occurred] on Wednesday, August 24th, was the most important witness examined.

In response to the direction [sic – direct] question of the prosecuting attorney, “Now, in your opinion, was that wound originally fatal as the law uses the term, [sic – ?]” Dr. Reinhardt declared “Yes, sir.”

“Would death have resulted from the wound regardless of surgical treatment?” was the next question propounded by Prosecuting Attorney Henderson.

Dr. Reinhardt replied: “Well, I could not say regardless of treatment. If there were such skill as to have discovered the immediate cause of the hemorrhage, the hemorrhage itself might have been checked, but the peritonitis which was in my judgment the immediate cause of death was unavoidable.”

By the prosecuting attorney: “And in your judgment peritonitis was the cause of death?” Dr. Reinhardt: “Yes.”

Prosecuting Attorney: “And surgical skill could not have arrested the result in the case?”

Dr. Reinhardt: “I think not.”

An adjournment was then taken until next Wednesday to permit the stenographer to “long-hand” the testimony for submittal to Justice Woodward.

Attorney Barasa intimated that he would waive further examination or contest in the justice court, which will permit the case coming to trial at the October session of the circuit court.

The charge against Spigarelli is murder in the first degree and Justice Woodward has intimated that he will not accept bail bonds.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 21 [Thursday, October 13, 1910], page 1, column 1

## SPIGARELLI CASE

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### A JURY SECURED IN SHORT ORDER AND TRIAL PROGRESSING.

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### Testimony of Dr. S. Edwin Cruse is Contradictory to That of Dr. Reinhart, of Chicago.

**Guiseppe Spigarelli**, charged with the murder of **Gust Johnson**, a fellow workman, at the **Pewabic mine**, on Saturday, August 25th, is now on trial before Judge Flannigan in the circuit court.

The case was called on Monday and the prisoner, by his attorney, **B.P. Barasa**, of Chicago, made a plea of not guilty to the charge.

In order to expedite the trial, **Judge Flannigan** entered an order for an extra panel of fifty jurors, and **Sheriff Robbins** and his assistants at once became active in serving the summons.

Not as much trouble as anticipated was experienced in securing a jury satisfactory to the people and the defense, and the trial was opened on Tuesday morning before the following jurors: **William Pascoe**, Norway; **F.W. Henkley**, Channing; **Robert Cline**, Iron Mountain; **John Landers**, Vulcan; **F.J. Brans**, Waucedah; **Edward Lathen**, Vulcan; **Robert Schunk**, Loretto; **Henry Best**, Iron Mountain; **John Grenfell**; [sic] Quinnesec; **Fred Gleason**, Vulcan; **William Dawe**, Vulcan; **W.H. Phillips**, Loretto.

Fifty or more witnesses have been subpoenaed [sic – subpoenaed] by the people and the defense and the case will undoubtedly command the attention of the court for the remainder of the week. The

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

alleged crime was committed in the presence of a large party of miners who were preparing to go underground.

It is evident from the opening statements of the attorney for the prisoner, that an endeavor will be made to establish that Johnson's death was not due to the wound alleged to have been inflicted by a miner's candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*] in the hands of Spigarelli, but resulted from complications caused by his removal to a hospital in Chicago; also that Spigarelli did not stab Johnson with the candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*], but that, during the fight between the men, in which they fell to the ground, Johnson fell on the candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*], which the prisoner held in his hand.

The examination of witnesses was commenced shortly after the noon adjournment yesterday. One of the first witnesses was **Dr. S. Edwin Cruse**, of St. George's Hospital, where Johnson was taken soon after the wound was inflicted. The testimony of Dr. Cruse was directly contradictory of that of **Dr. Reinhardt**, of Chicago, physician to the coroner in [*the*] city, who testified in **Justice Woodward's** court, that, in his opinion, death was due to peritonitis. Dr. Cruse was emphatic in his opinion to the contrary and in this opinion has the support of the surgeon who received Johnson at the Augustana Hospital. In response to a question relative to the chances Johnson had of recovering from the wound had he remained in the Iron Mountain hospital, Dr. Cruse declared that they were better than seventy-five per cent.

Dr. Reinhart, the coroner's physician, who held the autopsy, will be on the witness stand in the court to-day [*sic – today*].

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 22 [Thursday, October 20, 1910], page 4, columns 5-6

## SPIGARELLI IS INNOCENT

### Circuit Court Jurors Declared That He Did Not Kill Johnson.

**Spigarelli** did not kill **Gust Johnson** during the quarrel last August at the **Pewabic mine**. Johnson's death was due to a wound he received in falling on the point of a miner's candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*] in the hand of Spigarelli. This is in accordance with the verdict returned last Sunday by the jury in Judge Flannigan's court after having the question under consideration for five or six hours. The jury returned a verdict [*of*] not guilty to the charge of murder, and the prisoner was discharged by **Judge Flannigan**. During the course of the trial, covering nearly a week, nearly a hundred witnesses were examined. The evidence was very contradictory. No two witnesses of the fracas between the men agreed in their testimony. Several sworn [*sic – swore*] that they saw Spigarelli stab Johnson with the candle-stick [*sic – candlestick*]. Other witnesses, standing alongside the first witnesses, were equally positive that Spigarelli did not stab Johnson. The Press understands that the jurors almost entirely ignored the testimony of the medical experts regarding the matter of the removal of Johnson from Iron Mountain to Chicago during a critical stage of his wound. The main question was: Did Spigarelli, with murderous intent, inflict the wound which caused Johnson's death? The verdict indicates that the jurors did not so believe. The case was well handled for the people by **Prosecutor Henderson** and Spigarelli was ably defended by **P.B. Borasa**, of Chicago, assisted by **Brackett & Turner**

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

and **John B. Calvi** of the local bar. The trial was an expensive one and the charge to the people will undoubtedly exceed \$1,500.

## TRADERS MINE

Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 3 [Thursday, June 11, 1896], page 1, column 3

**Edward King** got his left hand caught in the crusher at the **Traders mine** last Saturday, mangling all the fingers in a horrible manner. **Drs. Crowell** and **Cameron** are endeavoring to save the fingers, but the prospects are not very favorable.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 29 [Thursday, December 7, 1899], page 1, column 3

### Fatality at Traders Mine.

At the **Traders mine** last night at about ten o'clock **Frank Victorson** and **Victor Hogglund** received injuries from a blast that resulted fatally in the case of the former and there is little hope of the recovery of the latter. Victorson died this morning at St. George's hospital. The men were engaged in drilling and it is thought struck a dynamite cartridge that had missed fire. Both men are unmarried.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XXII, Number 40 [Saturday, November 3, 1906], page 1, column 3

### FATAL COLLISION.

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### Three Men Instantly Killed and Many Seriously Hurt at Iron Mountain.

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Wednesday morning just before seven o'clock, a train made up of a locomotive and two coaches carrying the night crew from the **Traders mine** to Iron Mountain on the C.M. & St. P. track, met a heavy freight train and a terrible head-end collision ensued. The tender of the passenger train was driven through the first coach killing three men outright and crushing and burning several others who may die. The dead were removed to the city morgues and the injured to St. George's hospital where every thing [*sic – everything*] is being done to alleviate their sufferings. The responsibility for the calamity has not been fully ascertained. The names of the dead and injured so far as can be learned are as follows:

#### KILLED.

**Joseph Trepanier**, **Leonardo Galli**, **Chas. Morreli**.

#### INJURED.

**Orso Schenk**, general contusions; **Tony Folenti**, general contusions; **Alex Poirier**, general contusions; **Fred Tonney**, face scratched and slightly burned; **John Burt**, left leg burned; **Humberdo Manelli**, both legs broken; **Thomas Cowling**, badly burned; **Ed. Merryfield**, contused leg; **Charles Dessureau**, burned leg; **Joseph Cafetione**, leg broken.

#### DIED FROM INJURIES.

**John Pleckinger**[,] a brakeman employed on the passenger[,], was caught between the tender and cab in attempting to jump. He was alive when rescued but was badly scalded and injured internally. He succumbed to his injuries at 1:30 p.m. the same day.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

**Thos. Cowling**[,] a fireman at the mine[,] was caught under a red hot stove in forward coach and was so badly burned about legs and abdomen, that he died Wednesday evening.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 17 [Thursday, September 15, 1910], page 1, column 5

## Miner Injured.

Last Tuesday evening, **Tito Coletto**, employed at the **Traders mine**, lost his balance while working in a stope on the side of the open pit and fell sixty feet to the bottom of the pit. Coletto struck on his back on some rocks. He was taken to St. George's Hospital, where he is still in an unconscious condition. Just what his injuries are has not yet been determined, but he is supposed to be injured internally.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 18 [Thursday, September 22, 1910], page 1, column 4

## Resulted Fatally.

**Tito Coletto** died at St. George's Hospital last Saturday morning from injuries received in falling sixty odd feet at the open pit of the **Antoine Ore company**. At the time of the accident, Coletto was standing on a ledge engaged in passing up drilling tools to his partner. It is the opinion of friends that he had an attack of dizziness and fell. In falling, Coletto struck a ledge before landing at the bottom. His skull was fractured. Coletto was about nineteen years of age and came to the city from Italy about a year ago. The funeral was held on Monday from Holy Rosary church.

## WALPOLE MINE

Iron Mountain, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume V, Number 17 [Saturday, May 25, 1889], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

Thursday of last week a man named **Zanella Marisilio**, walked into the shaft at the **Walpole** and fell from the 218 ft. level to the bottom, a distance of more than 100 ft. death [sic – Death] was instantaneous. There was [sic – was] a gate in the level and evidence failed to show whether it was open or closed, although the deceased and his two partners were the last persons who had passed from the shaft into the level a few minutes before the accident.

## LORETTO

## APPLETON MINE

Loretto, Dickinson County  
[Eleanor Mine]

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume IX, Number 41 [Saturday, November 11, 1893], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

**Three Italians** were injured at the **Appleton mine** while at work underground on Monday. Two received injuries through a fall of rock, although lagging was above, one of them having his leg broken and another somewhat bruised; the third was owing to a blast, he having against orders walked in before the expiration of the time

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

in the face of danger, receiving the consequences – a thigh broken in two places. He has to be thankful it was not worse.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 17 [Saturday, May 26, 1894], page 1, column 3

The **Italian** injured underground at the **Loretto mine** last week was not injured so severely as was at first reported. Although his thigh was badly crushed, no bones were broken, and good progress toward recovery is being made.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, **Volume 2**, Number 37 [Thursday, February 3, 1898], page 1, column 5

## FATALITY AT LORETTO.

**Giacomo Eselia**, a miner employed at the **Loretto mine**, was caught by a fall of ground last Friday morning and received injuries that resulted in his death. Eselia and his partner were engaged in slabbing up a set of timber that had been erected by the night crew. The deceased was endeavoring to remove a block from the top of a cap so that a slab could be placed in position when a piece of ore weighing several hundred pounds fell, striking him on the head, causing a fracture at the base of the skull. **Coroner Cudlip** held an inquest lasts Tuesday and a verdict was rendered in accordance with the above facts.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 21 [Thursday, October 12, 1899], page 8, column 3

## MYSTERY OF THE MINE.

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### William Satterly Found With Skull Crushed in Old Drift in the Loretto Mine.

The **Loretto mine** has a mystery that is tainted with the suspicion of murder.

On Friday afternoon last, **William Satterly**, a well-known English miner, was found dead in an old drift on the first level, about one hundred feet from the hoist shaft. He was found about fifteen or twenty minutes after one o'clock. The skull was completely crushed across the forehead, the brain protruding. Satterly was still alive when found, but never became conscious, dying in a few moments after being taken to the surface. He was found by **Daniel Muchaune**, a timberman, who had gone to that part of the mine to make some repairs.

The deceased was last seen alive by **James Bailey** and **Henry Sherman**, at the time the men came down for dinner. This was in the shaft at the first level, where they had some conversation with him. When Satterly left them he started for his work in a drift west of the shaft, fully four hundred feet from where he was found and in an opposite direction. Only five men were working on this level and Satterly's partners had not yet come down from dinner, having gone to the blacksmith shop after some drills. The men were employed in scrambling from some small pockets of ore.

**Mine Inspector Trestrail**, who investigated the mystery, is of the opinion that Satterly's death is not the result of an accident. **Superintendent Truscott** is positive that it is a case of murder, but has no suspicion of the perpetrators. There is no evidence of a rock or timber having fallen on him, a close search having been made to find such evidence. The drift in which he was found was a perfectly close one. **Dr. Lockhart** states that, had Satterly

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

been injured in the vicinity of the shaft, it would have been utterly impossible for him to make his way unaided to the place where he was found, injured as he was.

Thus Satterly died as he lived – surrounded by mystery. He was quite well-known in the iron region, but never worked very long at any one place. He was a man of about forty-two years of age, and if married he never made the fact known. His family connections are said to have been of the best and he had a splendid education, and had he applied himself was competent to hold a high position in a mercantile line. He was of a wandering disposition and spent a great deal of his time in traveling around the country with bands of gypsies, with whom he seemed to be on the most intimate terms.

**Coroner Trugdeon** impaneled a jury and viewed the surroundings where Satterly was found on Friday afternoon, after which an adjournment was taken until to-morrow [sic – tomorrow] afternoon.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 22 [Thursday, October 19, 1899], page 1, column 5*

## THE LORETTO MYSTERY.

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### Late Developments Tend to Show That a High Crime Was Committed.

Late developments would indicate that **William Satterly**, who was found in a dying condition in an abandoned drift in the **Loretto mine**, was the victim of foul play. Many circumstances in support of such a conclusion have been brought to light through the persistent and methodical investigation now being conducted by **Coroner Trugdeon** and his jury. The investigation is still in progress, and the jury

may not render a verdict for some little time yet.

Facts brought out by the coroner would tend to prove conclusively that Satterly was killed at the shaft and carried to the abandoned drift where he was found. It has been established, too, that his skull was crushed by a piece of lagging thrown from the surface. The distance from the collar to the point where William Satterly was last seen alive, [sic] is about sixty feet. It has been shown that a person standing at that point could be plainly seen from the surface and that it would have been possible to drop something onto them.

More important still, **Capt. William Gill** found secreted among some timbers on the level in question several strange pieces of lagging. They had the appearance of having been hastily thrown where found. They were spattered with some fluid which **Dr. Lockart** believes to be blood, although it will require a microscopic examination to prove this beyond peradventure. The lagging is now in possession of the coroner and will be preserved. Such an examination would cost in the neighborhood of \$100, but the coroner may deem it advisable to have the test made.

Another strange development is the sudden disappearance of **Charles Bonin**, a miner, employed on the same level with Satterly. At the adjourned session of the coroner's jury last Friday, Bonin swore point blank that he was underground at the time it is supposed Satterly was struck down. In this Bonin is squarely contradicted by **William Bittner**, who has charge of lowering all timber and lagging going underground to the levels reached by this shaft. Bittner swears positively that he saw Bonin in the vicinity of the lagging pile at about the time Satterly is supposed to have been killed.

Two other men swear that they heard something fall through the shaft at about this time. Soon after this testimony was

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

recorded Bonin disappeared and his present whereabouts are unknown. There is no evidence beyond this to prove that Bonin is guilty of the killing, either accidental or willfully, of Satterly, and if innocent he was certainly very foolish to run away and thus add to the damaging testimony against him. Neither is there any evidence to prove that Bonin and Satterly had quarreled. Indeed, Supt. Truscott is quite positive that the men had no difficulty since entering his employ. The disappearance of Bonin, however, will count heavily against him.

The Press was surprised to learn yesterday that the Dickinson county police authorities had not interested themselves in the slightest degree in attempting to unravel the mystery. Neither the sheriff or prosecuting attorney had visited the scene or volunteered to aid Coroner Trugdeon in conducting the investigation, although all the damaging evidence of a high crime had been reported to them as the facts developed.

## NORWAY

### ARAGON MINE

Norway, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 37 [Saturday, October 12, 1895], page 1, column 5

#### MET WITH DEATH.

**Theodore Freberg**, a timberman at work on the “half-past six” or seventh level in the **Aragon mine** was killed at 5:30 o'clock this morning. He was tramping a car of sand on a temporary track when the timbers gave way. He fell a distance of

about fifteen feet, the car following him and hitting him on the head. The unfortunate man was aged about twenty-four years and was single.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XII, Number 1 [Saturday, February 1, 1896], page 1, column 2

#### A PECULIAR ACCIDENT.

Saturday noon, a singular accident occurred at the **Aragon mine**. Two men were going to the shaft bottom, to take the cage for surface, and while going from the six and a half to the seventh level, one man fell from the ladder, striking a man who was within six feet of the bottom. The man who fell from the top was a Finlander named **Jule Bjorkquist** and he sustained serious injuries, the joint of one knee was completely smashed and forty or fifty pieces of bone were taken out by the surgeons. Added to this was a dislocated shoulder and some internal injury. He is now at the B.N.W. hospital, doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. The other man[,] **Arron [Aaron] Forgeluns**[,] sustained some bruises and cuts about the head and some injury to his back, but no serious result is anticipated. Bjorkquist has been only one month in the United States and had worked but two weeks at the Aragon.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 613 [sic – 612] [Friday, July 1, 1898], page 3, column 3

#### CAVE-IN AT NORWAY.

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**Two Miners Buried While Slicing and Instantly Killed.**

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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## COMPANIONS HAVE A NARROW ESCAPE.

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### One of the Unfortunates Leaves a Wife and Seven Children – The Other a Single Man – Inquest Wednesday.

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A frightful accident occurred at the **Aragon mine** at Norway this morning in which two men lost their lives and two others had a narrow escape from death.

#### THE DEAD.

**PROSPER DUCHARME**, a Frenchman, married man. Leaves a wife and seven children.

**CHARLES KUSKYE**, a German, unmarried.

Full particulars of the accident could not be secured. It was learned however, that the men, who were miners, went to work in one of the lower levels as usual early this morning. They were engaged in slicing and had not been at work long before a fall of ground occurred and they were buried underneath.

Two companions working near had a narrow escape. Coroner Cudlip visited the scene of the accident this morning and decided to hold an inquest. He summoned a jury, but the proceedings were postponed until Wednesday morning in order to enable the company to be represented by their attorney.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 48 [Thursday, April 13, 1916], page 3, column 1

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

**Gustav Doras**, who was injured ten months ago by a fall of ninety feet in the Aragon mine, died last Thursday at Dr. E.P. Swift's hospital. He was forty-five years of age and leaves a wife and five children. Funeral services were held Monday morning from St. Mary's church by Rev. W.H. Joisten. The Finnish Brotherhood, of which he was a member, attended the funeral.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Tuesday, December 19, 1922], page 1, column 3

## NORWAY MINER MEETS DEATH

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### Skull Fractured When Caught Between Two Cars Underground

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**Joseph Farnzik**, an employe [*sic* – *employee*] at the **Aragon mine** at Norway, was almost instantly killed this morning when he suffered a fractured skull when his head became caught between two cars which he was attempting to couple.

The accident occurred underground about 10:45 o'clock. Farnzik died about half an hour later.

He is survived by his parents and a number of brothers and sisters. He had made his home with his parents on the Blomgren farm, north of the city.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Tuesday, January 29, 1924], page 5, column 4

## NORWAY MINER

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## INJURES HAND

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### Joseph Servia Suffers Mutilated Hand In Ara- gon Mine Accident

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**Joseph Servia** was badly injured at the **Aragon mine** yesterday noon when he caught his hand between the top of an ore car and the ore chute. All the flesh on the back of the hand was scraped off when it was jammed into the tiny space between the chute and the car. He was removed to the Penn hospital for treatment, where it was declared amputation would not be necessary.

### BRIER HILL MINE Norway, Dickinson County

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 33 [Thursday, December 30, 1915], page 1, column 6

### Dashed to Death.

**Arthur Marcelle** fell one thousand feet down the **Brier Hill shaft** of the Penn Iron Mining company at Norway at about four o'clock yesterday morning and nearly every bone in his body was broken. Marcelle was employed as cage tender. There were no witnesses of the accident and it is not known how it happened. It is the supposition that, [sic] Marcelle, in a condition of absent mindedness, thinking the cage was at the landing, walked into the shaft. Marcelle was thirty-six years of age and was held in high esteem as a careful workman. He is mourned by a widow and seven children and many friends.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 6 [Thursday, June 24, 1920], page 7, column 2

### Fatally Injured.

**Charles Fredeen**, an employe [sic – employee] at the Brier Hill mine of the Penn Iron Mining company at Norway, was injured last Thursday and died at the hospital a few hours later. Mr. Fredeen was about thirty-four years old and had resided in Norway several years. He was a member of several fraternal societies and the remains were buried last Sunday. So far as can be ascertained, no relatives reside in this section.

*The Iron Mountain Daily News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 168 [Wednesday, October 26, 1921], page 1, column 8

## FATHER AND SON ENTOMBED BY CAVE-IN

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### Ground Falls in Briar Hill Mine At West Vulcan

**NORWAY, Oct. 26.** – While constant progress is being made in the effort to uncover the bodies of **Oswaldo** and **Joseph Vercillio**, buried by a fall of ground yesterday noon, they had not been found at 3:30, after 24 hours of digging by the most expert miners in the employ of the Penn company. The victims are undoubtedly dead, in the opinion of company officials.

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# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

NORWAY, Oct. 26. – The most skilled miners in the employ of the Penn Iron Mining company are working on the 11th level of the Brier Hill mine in an effort to uncover the bodies of **Oswaldo Vercillio**, 56, and his son, **Joseph**, 32, who have been buried under a fall of ore since shortly before noon yesterday. No hope is held out that the entombed men are alive.

Vercillio and his son were working “partners” in a small compartment on the 11th level. As was customary, they had blasted between 11 and 12, and, when the workings cleared, had gone back to take out some ore. Just how the accident occurred will probably never be known, but it is believed that the hanging wall, and part of the filling, loosened by the blasting, caved in, burying the two men beneath it.

When the accident was discovered, some time later, two of the most expert miners in the employ of the company were put to work removing the fallen ore. Because of the confined space and the danger from further caving, no more rescuers could be sent it.

Word that the bodies have been reached is expected hourly.

The elder Vercillio had been working for the company over 20 years and both were regarded as competent and expert miners. Osvaldo is survived by his widow, three married daughters, and a son. Joseph leaves a widow and one child.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Wednesday, October 26, 1921], page 1, column 7 [box story accompanying above accident story]

## MINE ACCIDENT STATISTICS

With one exception, yesterday’s accident at **West Vulcan**, when **Oswaldo Vercillio** and his son **Joseph**, [sic] were buried alive by a fall of ground in the **Briar** [sic – Brier] **Hill mine**, is the only mining fatality in Dickinson county in over a year, according to the annual report of **Frank L. Larson**, mine inspector, which is now in the hands of the printer.

The other fatality occurred at the **Curry mine** September 20, when **David Rosatti**, cage tender, was thrown from the cage by a drill which became caught on a timber, and fell 900 feet to the bottom of the shaft. Fourteen non-fatal accidents, which involved loss of more than a day’s time, were also reported.

This record gives a mortality rate of .665 per 1,000 men employed, or 1 per .988,905 tons of ore mined. The present fatalities will be included in the next annual report, the year being computed from Sept. 30 to Sept. 30.

## CURRY MINE

Norway, Dickinson County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 24 [Saturday, June 11, 1881], page 3, column 3

**DANIEL H. WOOD**, the able superintendent of the **Curry mine**, was struck on the head by the door of one of the ore pockets and sustained such injuries that he died on the 1st of the month. He was buried in Ishpeming.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume VII, Number 50 [Saturday, January 16, 1892], page 1, columns 1-3

## CURRENT NOTES.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

–**Jos. Pollard**, a **miner**, employed at **Curry mine**, was blasted, early Thursday morning. His face was quite badly cut with small pieces of rock and the sight of one eye was destroyed. He had only worked in the mine a few days, having come from **Iron Mountain**, where he was employed at the **Ludington mine**. The injuries are not dangerous and he will be out in a few days.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 3 [Saturday, February 16, 1895], page 1, column 4

Through the breaking of a scaffold, Tuesday morning, at the **Curry engine house**, **William Balsom** received severe injuries to his chest, arms and knees. He was attending to some repair work at the time the accident occurred. A month will elapse before Mr. Balsom will again be able to attend to his duties.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 25 [Saturday, July 24, 1897], page 1, column 3

## DIED.

Sept. 2nd, 1892, **John Johnson** had his back broken at the **Curry mine** and he has been an inmate of the Penn Co.'s Norway hospital, since that time. Tuesday morning he died. Deceased was about 41 years old and at the time of his injury he was, by his industry and frugality, in comfortable pecuniary circumstances. His twin brother **Solomon** left, about a month ago[,] for a three months visit to Sweden, his native land. A sister resides in Iron Mountain[,] who with other friends attended the funeral Thursday at \_\_\_\_\_. The dead man has had a necessarily uneventful life during the past five years but when not troubled with pains

incident to his condition he passed his time comfortably in reading and conversing with his numerous visitors.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 11, Number 18 [Thursday, September 20, 1906], page 1, column 2

## Miner Killed.

**John Filini**, an Italian miner employed at the **Curry mine** at Norway, was instantly killed last Thursday morning. The fatality was caused by a fall of ground. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental death. Filini was about twenty-three years of age and unmarried.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 11 [Thursday, July 27, 1916], page 5, column 3

## VULCAN NEWS ITEMS

### CAVE-IN AT THE CURRY.

Last Friday morning a cave-in at the **Curry property** of the **Penn Iron Mining company** at Vulcan, [sic] resulted in the death of three men and the entombing of another. The following account taken from the *Norway Current* tells the sad story:

“Three miners had been working on the top of a pillar at the sixteenth level, slicing; two men with a mule were working at the seventh [sic – seventh] level, tramping. At about 10:30 last Thursday night, a disturbance occurred which closed the drift, through which the cars were being hauled through the pillar, catching the two cars and a trammer behind them, [sic] the driver and the mule escaped by a very close margin. In the meantime, the men near the top of the pillar at the sixteenth level were covered

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

by a run of the filling from rooms on either side. Immediate steps were taken to rescue the entombed men, if alive, or to recover their bodies, if dead. It was discovered that much work would be required to reach the places where they were supposed to be. At the seventeenth level, just one end of a car was visible, and that was crushed flat, precluding the possibility of the trammer being alive, and the first attention was paid to [the] top of the pillar at the sixteenth level, where the three miners were. After work had progressed somewhat, it was found that communication could be had, through a broken air-pipe, with one of the men, **Joseph Bertie** by name, who seemingly was not much injured. Work continued through the early morning and forenoon and at noon it was said, enough progress had been made to enable the rescuers to hear Bertie through the broken ground.

The names of the men are: **Fred Vercauteren**, the trammer, on the seventeenth level, and **Joseph Bertie**, **Richard Hooper** and **Thomas Jones**, on the sixteenth level, two of whom, Fred Vercauteren and Richard Hooper, are married.

The cause of the accident can be only a surmise. It is generally thought, however, that a piece of the pillar broke away, breaking the timber in one of the adjoining rooms, and causing the filling to run into some cavity be- [sic] below, caused by shrinkage of the filling. Whatever it may have been, the result is most disastrous, and has broken a long period of immunity from serious accident in the Curry property.

About six o'clock last Friday night the rescuers reached Joseph Bertie, who, barring extreme exhaustion, was found to be alright, and he was immediately brought to surface and cared for.

The bodies of Jones and Hooper were recovered at three o'clock on Saturday

morning and that of Fred Vercauteren on Sunday evening.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Wednesday, October 26, 1921], page 1, column 7 [box story accompanying above accident story]

## MINE ACCIDENT STATISTICS

With one exception, yesterday's accident at **West Vulcan**, when **Oswaldo Vercillio** and his son **Joseph**, [sic] were buried alive by a fall of ground in the **Briar [sic – Brier] Hill mine**, is the only mining fatality in Dickinson county in over a year, according to the annual report of **Frank L. Larson**, mine inspector, which is now in the hands of the printer.

The other fatality occurred at the **Curry mine** September 20, when **David Rosatti**, cage tender, was thrown from the cage by a drill which became caught on a timber, and fell 900 feet to the bottom of the shaft. Fourteen non-fatal accidents, which involved loss of more than a day's time, were also reported.

This record gives a mortality rate of .665 per 1,000 men employed, or 1 per .988,905 tons of ore mined. The present fatalities will be included in the next annual report, the year being computed from Sept. 30 to Sept. 30.

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_ [Tuesday, June 13, 1922], page 1, column 6

## VULCAN MAN IS KILLED AT MINE

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## Body, Caught in Eight-Foot Wheel, Horribly Mangled

---

**Emmanuel Carlsen**, of Vulcan, was crushed to death when one of his arms and legs became caught in the wheel he was oiling at the **Currey** [sic – *Curry*] mine at Vulcan. The body, drawn into the wheel by its momentum, was whirled around and around, until, when fellow workmen noticed it, the torso, limbs and head were horribly mangled.

Carlsen was dead when his comrades were able to have the machinery stopped, the wheel, eight feet in diameter, having broken practically every bone.

He is survived by his widow and one daughter, Ethel, and a son, Albert, of Milwaukee, who arrived in Vulcan this morning.

Mr. Carlsen, who was 56 years of age, had been a resident of Vulcan for 35 years. The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon from the Vulcan Swedish Lutheran church, the Rev. Olson officiating.

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_ Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Wednesday, October 11, 1922], page 1, column 8

## MINER IS CRUSHED TO DEATH AT EAST VULCAN

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## PARTNER FIVE FEET AWAY IS NOT INJURED

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**John Nora, 55, Caught**

## Under Five Tons of Ore

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## JUST STARTED WORK

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## Married Vulcan Girl, Who With 10 Children, Survives

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NORWAY, Oct. 11. – **John Nora**, 55, was instantly killed at 8 o'clock this morning at the **Curry shaft** of the Penn Iron Mining company, **East Vulcan**, when he was crushed under five tons of ore. **James Santoni**, his partner, who was only five feet away, escaped unhurt.

Nora and Santoni had just started their day's work and were trimming the back of a drift when five tons of ore caved in on Nora.

Nora came to the United States from Turin, Italy, in 1890. In 1891 he was married to Miss **Mary Christianelli**, at Vulcan. Besides his widow he is survived by 10 children, ranging in age from 27 to 7.

The dead miner's head and body were badly mangled by the weight of the dirt. His head was crushed and several ribs and other bones in his body broken. The force of the falling dirt was sufficient to push a bone in his foot through the heavy miner's boot he was wearing.

## CYCLOPS MINE Norway, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 7 [Saturday, March 21, 1885], page 1, column 4

**A CLOSE CALL.**

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

**Alf. Chipman** had a close call from being blown to atoms in the **Cyclops mine** Monday last. He fired a hole just before going to dinner, as did several others who were working close by him. After setting fire to the fuse, he sought a place of safety, intending to go back and see how the ground had broken. Several holes went off and, thinking his had among them, he went in to see the work it had done. He was too soon, however, for the charge went off, burning and lacerating his face in a fearful manner. He was once removed to the hospital and cared for by the attending physician. It was at first feared that he would lose both eyes, but we are pleased to state that this will not be the case. Although he will be marred for life, it is fortunate for him that the accident proved no worse than it did.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 8 [Saturday, March 28, 1885], page 1, column 1

**Alf. Chipman**, whose serious injury was noted in these columns last week, was discharged from the hospital to-day [*sic – today*]. Alf. had a close call, and for a time his life was despaired of.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 12 [Saturday, April 25, 1885], page 1, column 3

## WILL PROBABLY DIE.

A young man named **Charles Anderson** was very severely injured in the **Cyclops mine**, Thursday last, and will probably die. He was working in the tunnel that runs from the large open pit at the mine mentioned when a fall of ground took place crushing him beneath it. One leg was

broken, his spine badly injured, while he received many other bruises on different parts of the body. He now lies at the mine hospital in a very critical condition, his body being paralyzed from the waist down.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 14 [Saturday, May 9, 1885], page 1, column 1

The young man **Anderson**, who was so severely injured in the **Cyclops mine** a short time ago, still lies in the hospital in a very precarious condition, and no hopes are entertained for his recovery.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 47 [Saturday, December 18, 1886], page 1, column 3

–Died, at Norway hospital, Tuesday, Dec. 14th, 1886, **Charles Anderson**, aged 32 years. Deceased had been an inmate of the hospital for about 20 months, having suffered a dislocation of the spine by a mine accident. He was buried on Thursday, and a large number showed their respect by accompanying the remains to their last resting place.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 12 [Saturday, April 17, 1886], page 1, column 3

## ACCIDENT.

**Leopold Deveer**, an employe [*sic – employee*] at the **Cyclops mine**, was injured in the back by a fall of ground on Saturday last, but the injury was not considered serious.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume V, Number 17

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

[Saturday, May 25, 1889], page 8, columns 2-3

## KILLED AT CYCLOPS.

Thursday forenoon a young Englishman who had just arrived from his native land, and who had been at work but two and one half days, was instantly killed by a fall of ground at the **Cyclops**. The young man was named **William H. Stanton**, was about 21 years old, and is said by those who knew him to have been a man of more than ordinary intelligence, a devout Christian and a local preacher of considerable ability.

[Long article and detailed account of accident follows. Needs to be copied.]

## NORWAY MINE

Norway, Dickinson County

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 26 [Saturday, May 31, 1879], page 2, column 2

**QUINNESEC.** – From the *Menominee Range*:

**John Murphy**, at work in the **Norway mine**, had both bones of his left leg broken the other day by a portion of the foot wall falling.

*Menominee Range*, Quinnesec, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 77 [Wednesday, September 1, 1880], page 4, column 3

–**William Roberts**, a miner employed in the **Norway mine**[,] was killed instantly Monday morning last. While at work on a stope underground a piece of ore fell on him. He leaves a wife and family at Waucesaw where the remains were taken

the same afternoon. He had been employed at the mine but a short time before the accident.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 25 [Saturday, June 18, 1881], page 3, column 2

**TWO miners** were suffocated to death in the **Norway mine** last week, by poisonous gas from a discharge of nitro glycerine [*sic* – *nitroglycerine*].

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 3 [Saturday, February 21, 1885], page 1, column 1

A man was hurt at the **Norway mine** on Thursday last by a fall. Particulars not at hand.

**James Barry**, a pipeman, was hurt at the **Norway mine** yesterday by the bursting of an air pipe.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 5 [Saturday, March 7, 1885], page 1, column 3

**Eric Loff** had a most miraculous escape from instant death on Wednesday last. He was standing on the landing of the **new shaft** at the **Norway mine** waiting for a rope that was being let down from the shaft house above. The rope being a heavy one, and coming down faster than he anticipated, when he took hold of it, it overbalanced him and he fell into the shaft. Luckily for him, and the men working in the bottom, a stick of timber that was about to be lowered was hanging at the end of a rope some twenty-five feet down from the mouth of the shaft, and on this Loff landed and rolled off into the timbering on the side

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

of the shaft, more scared than hurt. Had it not been for this stick of timber he would have gone to the bottom[,] a distance of over three hundred feet, the result of which can easily be imagined.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 20 [Saturday, June 20, 1885], page 1, column 1

A **miner** at the **Norway** lost a toe Friday of last week by a rock falling upon it.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 32 [Saturday, September 12, 1885], page 1, column 3

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

**Julius Barber Cobi** fell down **No. 3 shaft** at the **Norway**, Saturday morning last, while going to his work, and dropping into a skip at the bottom, sustained injuries from which he died during the afternoon. The deceased was an Italian, and was insured in the Travellers Accident Insurance Co. for \$500.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 34 [Saturday, September 26, 1885], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

On the same day [Saturday last] **Thomas Oliver**, was seriously injured at the **Norway mine**, by a falling derrick. "Tom[,] as he is familiarly known, was standing near the derrick, when one of the guys broke, and he being a heavy man, and somewhat lame, from a previous accident, failed to reach a place of safety. The mast struck him on the arm and hand, breaking the former, and badly mangling the latter. It

was at first thought amputation would be necessary, but **Dr. Hirschmann**, who is in attendance, hopes he will be able to save, [sic] all of the hand not taken off by the derrick.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 43 [Saturday, November 28, 1885], page 1, column 2

**Thomas Oliver**, who had his hand so badly injured some months ago, is slowly recovering from the effects of his injury and will soon be on deck again.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 48 [Saturday, January 2, 1886], page 1, column 1

**Thomas Oliver**, whose hand was so badly lacerated some time ago, is doing well. This speaks well for the attending physician, **Dr. Hirschmann**, as the hand was so terribly crushed in a derrick that it seemed beyond human skill to save it.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 35 [Saturday, October 3, 1885], page 1, column 5

## ACCIDENTS.

**Antone Zuzy** was slightly injured at the **Norway mine** on Wednesday last.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 51 [Saturday, January 23, 1886], page 1, column 1

An accident occurred at the **Norway mine** yesterday, by which three men were hurt. We could not get the particulars but

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

are informed that no one of the three is considered fatally injured.

Later – We learn that one man, **John Henry**, was seriously injured and he fell over a stope and received an injury to one of his legs, which will only disable him for a short time.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 52 [Saturday, January 30, 1886], page 1, column 2

## ACCIDENT.

On Monday last Mr. **John Quarnstrom**, head carpenter at the **Norway and Cyclops mines**, fell and broke one of his ribs. John has the sympathy of all who know him, and THE CURRENT hopes he will soon be on duty again.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 5 [Saturday, March 6, 1886], page 1, column 2

**Henry Hosking** received a somewhat serious injury at the **Norway mine** on Saturday last. It was at first thought that his ankle was broken, but luckily it did not prove to be quite so serious, and he will probably be around again in a few days.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 8 [Saturday, March 27, 1886], page 1, column 3

**Capt. Wm. T. Hosking** was hurt on Sunday last at the **Norway mine**. He was oiling some machinery, when a ladder, upon which he was standing, slipped and caused Mr. Hosking to fall a distance of about fifteen feet. Altho' no bones were broken he was so badly shaken up and bruised that he has since been confined to

his bed. Mr. Hosking has had several misfortunes lately in the way of accidents, but he is quite a philosopher, and if there is a bright side to the picture he will find it.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 13 [Saturday, April 24, 1886], page 1, column 5

## ACCIDENT.

Mr. **John McCarthy**, a pumpman at the **Norway mine**, was found about midnight, on Sunday last, at the bottom of **No. 9 shaft**, in an unconscious condition, having from all indications fallen quite a distance. The injured man was at once taken to the hospital and it was found that no bones were broken, but that he was badly bruised and shaken up. At this writing the injured man has not regained his senses enough to allow of his giving any coherent account of how the accident occurred.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 24 [Saturday, July 10, 1886], page 1, column 5

## ACCIDENTS.

On Tuesday last **Magnus Olson** was received at the hospital from the **Norway mine** with a sprained ankle.

On Wednesday **Ole Peterson**, of the **Norway mine**, lost part of one of his great toes by its being crushed by a rock.

On Thursday **John Bawden**, one of the foremen at the **Norway mine**, charged two blockholes and supposed, after waiting sufficient time that both had exploded. He returned to the pit, and just as he arrived one of the holes exploded, and slightly

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

injured him, but the boys say he was more scared than hurt, which was lucky for John.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 27 [Saturday, July 31, 1886], page 1, column 2

–**Thomas Lark**, of the **Norway mine**, had a narrow escape from serious injury on Monday last. While firing a number of block holes, one of them exploded prematurely and filled his face pretty thoroughly with small rock. Fortunately no permanent injury was done, and he will be around again in a few days.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 32 [Saturday, September 4, 1886], page 1, column 3

## FATAL ACCIDENT.

Wednesday morning while **William Eustice** and three other men were being lowered to their work in the **new shaft** at **Norway mine**, the brakeman lost control of the drum, and the cage dropped with fearful velocity to the bottom of the shaft, or of the cage way, which had not been carried clear to the bottom. Before the cage was stopped Eustice [*sic* – *Eustice*] had been shaken from it into the shaft and fell into 30 feet of water and was drowned. The other men were considerably shaken up and bruised, but managed to cling to the cage. Efforts were at once made to recover the body, and it was brought to surface about 11 o'clock in the forenoon. A jury was empanelled, who brought in a verdict of accidental death. The deceased has a wife and child in Pennsylvania and was making preparations to bring them here. The remains were buried at Quinnesec on Thursday.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 35 [Saturday, September 25, 1886], page 1, column 3

## ACCIDENT.

While coupling cars on the **Norway mine** switch, on Wednesday last, brakeman **Steve Benane** had his hand crushed so badly that amputation of one finger was necessary, and he will be laid up for some time. We're sorry for you[,] Steve[,] and hope you will not find it as bad as is predicted.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 52 [*sic*] [Saturday, January 29, 1887], page 1, column 2

–On Tuesday last Mr. **C.W. Swanson** was slightly injured at the **Norway mine**.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 5 [Saturday, March 5, 1887], page 1, column 2

–On Wednesday last a miner at the **Norway mine**, named **Bartolo Chaipini**, was struck on the shoulder by some falling ground, and seriously injured.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 13 [Saturday, April 30, 1887], page 1, column 3

–A **man** working on the stock-pile [*sic* – *stockpile*] at **Norway mine** received a slight injury to his hand one day last week, and erysipelas having set in, he is now lying at the hospital in a very dangerous condition.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 15

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

[Saturday, May 14, 1887], page 1,  
column 3

Norway, Dickinson County

## SAD ACCIDENT.

On Thursday last **William Hosking**[,] a nephew of **Capt. James Hosking**, of the **Norway mine**, met with a serious and what may yet prove a fatal accident. He was working in No. 2 pumping engine house, putting in some new machinery, when a level which was being used, slipped and struck him on the head. He was taken to the hospital and everything which human skill can suggest is being done for him. "Billy," as he is familiarly called, is a universal favorite, and any improvement in his condition will be glad tidings.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County,  
Michigan, Volume III, Number 16  
[Saturday, May 21, 1887], page 1,  
column 2

–**William Hosking**, whose injury we reported last week, was dismissed from the hospital on Saturday last, almost well, and at the time most of our readers were reading our account of his injury, and what was almost an obituary, Billy was figuring out when he would be able to fill his position of short stop [*sic – shortstop*] for the Norway Maroons.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County,  
Michigan, Volume III, Number 36  
[Saturday, October 8, 1887], page 1,  
column 4

–**Richard Gray** was quite seriously injured at the **Norway mine** yesterday by a piece of ore falling from the "back" and striking him on the head. He is at the hospital.

## PERKINS MINE

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County,  
Michigan, Volume I, Number 32  
[Saturday, September 12, 1885], page  
1, column 3

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

**John Mildren** was slightly injured, on Tuesday last, by a rock striking him on the head, while at work at the **Perkins**.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County,  
Michigan, Volume II, Number 24  
[Saturday, July 10, 1886], page 1,  
column 5

## ACCIDENTS.

On Wednesday **Joseph Demars**, who was employed at the **Perkins mine** in pulling the boom-rope of one of the derricks, lost his balance and was swung by the boom directly over the shaft. Here he concluded that he had done his full duty to his employer, in hanging on so long, let go his hold and fell 35 feet, alighting at the bottom of the shaft with but slight injury to himself, and no perceptible injury to the shaft.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County,  
Michigan, Volume II, Number 45  
[Saturday, December 4, 1886], page 1,  
column 3

–On Tuesday morning an accident occurred at the **Perkins mine** by which a man named **Erickson** has been fatally injured. He was making preparations to put in some timber, and the rock above his head which he might have touched with his hand, came down without any warning and crushed him almost to a pulp. His two legs were badly fractured, one arm broken in

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

two places, and his back broken, and strange to say he still lives.

LATER – The unfortunate man whose full name was **Olof J. Erickson**, died on Thursday and was buried yesterday. A coroners [*sic* – *coroner's*] jury was called, who found a verdict to the effect that the deceased came to his death by an accidental fall of ground in the Perkins mine. The deceased leaves a wife and one child.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 46 [Saturday, December 17, 1887], page 1, column 4

–An **Italian miner** at the **Perkins mine** was killed yesterday afternoon, by an explosion of giant powder. We have not been able to learn the full particulars.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 47 [Saturday, December 24, 1887], page 1, column 4

–The Italian miner killed at the **Perkins mine** last Friday was named **John Contrallo**. It appears that he was charging a hole with dynamite and in putting in the last piece he used an iron “scraper” to force it down, contrary to the advice of his partner, who would not remain in the drift. The partner had scarcely left him when the explosion occurred and the unfortunate man was shockingly mangled. The coroners [*sic*- *coroner's*] jury brought in a verdict of accidental death in accordance with the above facts. The remains were buried at Quinnesec on Saturday.

## SAGINAW MINE

Norway, Dickinson County

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 7

[Saturday, January 17, 1880], page 3, column 4

A **miner was killed at the Saginaw**, on Thursday, by a fall of rock from the hanging wall, and a **boy had his skull fractured** at the same mine by a bit of flying rock from a blast. We did not learn either of the names.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 38 [Saturday, September 17, 1881], page 3, column 2

From the *Chronicle* we learn that **John Ennor**, a miner, fell down a shaft at the **Saginaw**, on Tuesday of last week, and died from his injuries a few hours after.

## STEPHENSON MINE

Norway, Dickinson County

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

### Range Items.

–A swede [*sic* - *Swede*] named **Albourg**, who was **injured by the fall of a bucket** in the **Stephenson mine** some time ago, suffered **amputation of the leg**, last week. Gangrene had set in and his life was in danger.

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

### Range Items.

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

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

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

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

## Range Items.

–The man who was killed at the Stephenson mine was a Frenchman named Rubaur.

## QUINNESEC

### UNNAMED MINE

Near Quinnesec, Dickinson County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 38 [Saturday, September 17, 1881], page 3, column 2

WE learn that a miner in the company of **Capt. J.M. Gray** was buried up in a forty foot shaft near **Quinnesec**, the first of the week.

### CUNDY MINE

Quinnesec, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 5 [Saturday, March 6, 1897], page 1, column 4

## THREE MEN KILLED.

### A TERRIBLE MINE ACCIDENT.

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## The Cundy the Scene of the Awful Calamity, the Victims Well Known in This City.

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Wednesday evening at six o'clock three young and well known miners, **Albert Jewell**, **Richard Luke** and **Benjamin Richards**[,] were killed by a blast at the Cundy mine, Quinnesec. The accident was a most unusual one, standing as one, perhaps in the list of mine accidents on the peninsula. As there are several versions of the cause of the accident and the incidents leading thereto, it may be best to await the result of the coroner's inquest, and give only an outline of the cause and result. It appears that the blasting at the mine has been done by the aid of an electric battery located on the surface. Wednesday there was a large number of holes to explode and a new battery was being used under the management of **Supt. Cundy** and **Capt. Cowling**. Some of the men had charged the holes drilled by them and been hoisted to the surface, but the three unfortunate ones were still down and were being waited for by **Capt. Cundy**[,] who was to make the connection and set off the blasts. By some lamentable misunderstanding between **Capt. Cundy** and the lander at the mouth of the shaft, the latter was understood to announce that it was "all right," the electric current was put on and in an instant the three men were unrecognizable remains. The news of the accident spread very rapidly and the little village was soon the scene of much anguish.

**Albert Jewell** was a relative of **Capt. Cundy**, about 32 years old and left a wife and two children.

**Benjamin Richards** was a young man, the sole support of his mother who lives at Iron Mountain.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

**Richard Luke** was a young man, just past his majority, and was recently married.

It is said that Capt. Cundy feels very keenly the unintentional part which he took in the tragedy.

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XVIII, Number 46 [Saturday, March 6, 1897], page 1, column 4

## BLOWN TO ATOMS.

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**Bodies of Three Well Known Miners Shockingly Mangled in the Cundy Mine.**

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**SIGNALS FAILED THIS TIME.**

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**Dynamite was Discharged from the Surface by an Electric Battery. Were Killed Instantly. Heads and Arms Severed from the Bodies. Recognition of the Dead made Possible only by The Garments they Wore.**

---

(From Thursday's Daily Tribune.)

Shortly before six o'clock last evening a most shocking accident occurred in the **Cundy mine** at Quinnesec which resulted in the death of **Albert Jewell**, **Richard Luke** and **Bennie Richards**, all employed in the mine where the accident occurred. No sooner did the news spread among the residents of the little city where the mine is located than the telephones in this city were tapped to notify the relatives and friends here of the awful death of the victims.

No piece of news ever spread more quickly, as everyone knew Richard Luke and Bennie Richards, and nothing but regret and sorrow were given expression by the friends of those two men, who were residents of Iron Mountain.

HOW THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED.

The latest invention, an electric battery, is used to blast the rock in the shaft, the cartridges being discharged from the surface. It is customary to make the blasts each evening after the men have finished their day's work. Last night there was some misunderstanding, it is said, between the captains and the skip tender as to judging the signals, and the electric button was touched while the men were in the drift, close to the dynamite. Judging from the mangled condition in which the bodies were found, it is barely possible the men never realized what happened to them. The bodies of Albert Jewell and Bennie Richards were mangled beyond recognition. Their heads and arms were severed from the bodies, being scattered to every portion of the drift. The body of Richard Luke was not so shockingly mangled, but injured sufficiently to cause instant death.

The latter was 21 years of age and leaves, besides a young wife, many relations in this city. Thomas and Richard Luke are half brothers to the young man. He resided with his bride in Quinnesec.

Albert Jewell was 32 years of age and formerly resided at Iron Ridge, Wis. He was married to a niece of **Capt. Cundy**. He leaves a wife and two small children.

Bennie Richards was unmarried but was the only support of an aged mother who lives on West Flesheim street. He was well and favorably known to nearly everyone in this city, where he has resided for many years.

THE CORONER'S JURY

Shortly after the accident occurred Coronor [*sic* – *Coroner*] Cudlip was notified.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

He left at once for the scene of the accident and empanelled the following jury: John McKenna, D. Bergeron, John Manning, Robert Cole, John St. Dennis and George Bailey. The jury were taken to the mine office where the bodies had been carried, and after viewing the remains of the dead adjourned to meet after the funeral, which will possibly be held Saturday.

The little city of Quinnesec has not recovered from the shock of Wednesday evening, and the horrible explosion, which caused the death of three men is still the all absorbing topic of conversation. Mr. Neine, a representative of the Illinois Steel company, arrived in Quinnesec yesterday morning from Chicago. He is there for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the cause of the accident and recommend such action as he may deem advisable in the premises. Captain Cundy has the sympathy of every person in the city. He is suffering great mental anguish over the unfortunate affair, although no blame can be attached to him. The remains of Richard Luke will be shipped tonight to Linden, Wis., where final interment will take place. The funeral of the other two victims will be held at Quinnesec tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 606 [Friday, June 24, 1898], page 3, column 2

## CITY NEWS ITEMS.

**Dr. Crowell** was called to Quinnesec this morning to attend a miner by the name of **Baptiste Jedda**. Jedda worked in the **Cundy mine** and had his leg broken by a block falling upon it. He is an Italian and has a family consisting of a wife and five children.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 23 [Thursday, October 27, 1899], page X, column X

**[Find article for accident mentioned in item below which indicates another Cundy Mine accident occurred a week earlier killing three men. This accident might also appear in the November 2 issue of the Iron Mountain Press.]**

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 4, Number 24 [Thursday, November 2, 1899], page 8, column 3

## Two More Men Killed.

At the **Cundy mine** last Monday morning, soon after seven o'clock, **Richard Knight** and **John Viotti**, miners, were killed and **John Driscoll** was quite seriously injured by the discharge of a dynamite cartridge. The accident happened in the same stope in which the three men were killed last Thursday. It seems that a blast had been made and the three men named had gone into the stope for the purpose of clearing away the broken ore. Picks were employed in the work, and the one handled by Knight is supposed to have struck the remnants of a cartridge, causing it to explode with the above horrible result. Knight's body was mangled almost beyond recognition, and Viotti, [sic] was also considerably disfigured. Both men were unmarried. The funerals were held on Tuesday afternoon and were largely attended.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 6, Number 10 [Thursday, August 1, 1901], page 1, column 4

## MINER KILLED.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

**Henry Carlson**, a miner, was instantly killed at the **Cundy mine** last Saturday morning. Carlson was on the skip, coming up from the fourth level with some drills and was run up into the sheaves, breaking his neck. The accident was caused by the indicator registering falsely. Carlson was about twenty-six years of age and had no relatives in this country.

## INDIANA MINE

Quinnesec, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 49 [Saturday, January 9, 1886], page 1, column 2

**James Hoyle**, master machinist at the **Indiana mine**, met with a severe accident on Monday last. While working around some part of the moving machinery his right hand was caught by it and the two first fingers badly jammed. It is not known if amputation will be necessary or not.

## QUINNESEC MINE

Quinnesec, Dickinson County

*The Iron Port*, Escanaba, Delta County, Michigan, Volume X, Number 43 [September 27, 1879], page 2, column 2

**OLE PETERSON**, a miner, was caught by an ascending skip in the **Quinnesec mine**, and scalped as cleanly as Sitting Bull could have done it. Dr. North dressed the wound and the man will live.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 8 [Saturday, March 27, 1886], page 1, column 4

Mr. **Richard Lourey**, an employe [sic – employee] at the **Quinnesec mine**, was injured this week by some rock falling upon him. One of his ankles was so severely [sic – severely] hurt that he will be confined to the house for some time. We're sorry for you, Dick.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 31 [Thursday, December 27, 1900], page 4, column 6

## BRIEF CITY NEWSITES.

**William Jacobsen**, a young Swede about twenty years old, lost his life at the old Quinnesec mine, [sic] last Thursday. He was working on the fifth level, when a large fall of ground struck and completely buried him. His companions lost no time in getting him out, but he was crushed almost beyond recognition.

## VULCAN

### CENTRAL VULCAN MINE

Vulcan, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 22 [Saturday, July 2, 1887], page 8, columns 1-2

### A TERRIBLE MINE ACCIDENT.

On Tuesday last a fearful accident occurred at the **Central Vulcan mine**, by which four men were hurried into eternity without a moment's warning. As nearly as we can learn from the testimony given at the coroner's inquest, the facts are these:

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

James Vandersluye, John Kellow, William Pengilly and Paul Hosking, had been working at Central Vulcan, on contract work, and on Tuesday last Capt. Roberts measured their contract, but owing to some difference of opinion they failed to take a new one, and signified their intention of leaving the mine. On Wednesday morning, at 7:30 the Capt. was at the shaft and saw the men who expressed the belief that there was some mistake in the measure of their contract, and the Capt. left them, with the understanding that he would return after dinner and go down with them and re-measure it. It further appears that very soon after the Captain left the men concluded to go down themselves and look up the measurements. They accordingly got upon the “cage” and the lander rang the bell and lowered them to the bottom. Here, after they had measured the ground they met the pit boss and had some conversation with him and then prepared to reascend on the cage. As the pit boss had on his mining clothes and the mine is somewhat wet he refrained from going upon the cage with the men for fear of making their clothes dirty by contact with them, and he accordingly rang the bell giving the signal to hoist. Before the cage could be moved something was heard in the shaft above, and in an instant an ore car crashed through the top of the cage and instantly killed three of the men and so injured the fourth that he died within an hour. Now as to the cause of the falling of the car the evidence goesto [*sic – goes to*] show that there are two shafts near each other, that the lander at each shaft helps the other as the hoisting at either shaft is quickened and that on this morning both launders were employed at the “cage shaft”; that there has been employed at this mine for several months a youth of 17 or 18 years, whose duty it was to carry tools between the blacksmith shop and the mine, but who, at odd times when not engaged in

his regular business[,] assisted the landers at their request in sorting ore ringing the signal bells and so on. On Tuesday, after hte [*sic – the*] four men went down, the cage was again hoisted to surface with a loaded car, the car was run off, an empty one run on and the cage again lowered to the bottom. The two landers then pushed the loaded car out upon the stock pile[,] dumped it, and shoved it back on the track a short distance and began shoveling the dumped ore down the stock-pile [*sic – stockpile*]. While they were so engaged one of them called to the boy, who happened at this time to be without employment in his own line, to push the car back a little. The boy in obeying this request of the lander, began shoving the car and, as he said supposing the cage was up, he thought he would shove the car on the cage. By some strange fatality the boy did not notice that the cage was not up until it was too late to do anything except save himself, and the car went into the shaft and falling a distance of 150 feet caused the death of the unfortunate men who were preparing to ascend. The bodies of the four men were brought to the surface as soon as possible, and such of their friends as could be reached, notified. They were all Cornishmen, and two of them were married, but their families are still in England. The remains of two were buried in Quinnesec Wednesday, and the other two at the same place the next day.

## EAST VULCAN MINE

Vulcan, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 16 [Saturday, May 23, 1885], page 1, column 1

An **Italian miner** had his foot badly crushed at the **East Vulcan mine** Monday

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

night last by a fall of rock, and was taken to the Norway mine hospital Tuesday. It is feared that amputation of the injured member will be necessary.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 11 [Saturday, April 10, 1886], page 1, column 5

## VULCAN MITES.

On Tuesday night last about midnight a sad and fatal accident occurred at the **East Vulcan mine**. Mr. **William Jeffrey**, who has been for some time night foreman, or assistant captain, was, in company with **captain** [*sic – Captain*] **Curnow**, preparing to come up to supper from one of the levels. They both got upon the cage and the signal was given to hoist. After waiting for some time they concluded that the lander had not given the signal from the shaft house to the engineer, and Mr. Jeffrey stepped off the cage and gave the signal by means of another wire which runs to the engine house direct. While in the act of doing this[,] the cage was hoisted and it is supposed that Mr. Jeffrey stepped backward, not knowing that the cage had been hoisted, and stepped into the shaft. He fell a distance of 260 feet, and was dead when found. Mr. Jeffrey was somewhat deaf and it is probable that he did not hear the cage hoisted or had stepped so far before he fully realized that it was going that he could not recover his balance. Some extra work was in progress and Capt. Curnow[,] who was on the cage[,] was tired and was leaning with his head on his arm holding on to one of the bars of the cage, and the whole tragedy was so quickly enacted that all was over before it could be realized. Mr. Jeffrey was a man of exemplary habits and enjoyed the esteem of all with whom he was brought in contact, and his death is the result of one of those

fatalities over which humanity has no control. He leaves a wife and three children, who have in their affliction, the sympathy which such sudden bereavements always awaken in human hearts. The remains were buried at Quinnesec on Thursday last[,] the funeral being one of the largest ever seen in Norway.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 17 [Saturday, May 22, 1886], page 1, column 5

## VULCAN.

**Charles Bohman**, head machinist, of the **East Vulcan mine**, was badly burned by hot water and steam, yesterday forenoon. He was working around a pump, when the valve, which had evidently been tampered with, came wide open, and the escaping steam struck him in the face.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 24 [Saturday, July 16, 1887], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENT.

On Wednesday last a fatal accident occurred at the **East Vulcan mine**. **Nelson Solstrum** and another miner were firing a number of holes, which they had charged and intended to blast all at one time. Owing to the shortness of the fuse used, the first hole exploded before they could get out of the way. Solstrum was killed and the other man seriously injured. A jury, empanelled by coroner [*sic – Coroner*] Flanagan, rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts given above. Funeral services were held from the Swedish M.E. church on Thursday, and the remains were followed to the Norway cemetery by a large number of

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

friends and co-laborers of the deceased miner.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 17 [Saturday, May 26, 1888], page 8, column 3

## VULCAN.

On Tuesday, while employed in putting in the cageway in **No. 3 shaft, East Vulcan, Theophile Lord**[,] the foreman carpenter of the mine[,] was struck by a piece of plank and his skull so badly fractured that he died in a few hours. Mr. Lord was engaged in putting in the “runners” and had lashed one in the rope to send it down to the level of the tunnel, which strikes the shaft at a depth of 117 ft. After getting the piece ready he went down the ladder to the tunnel station and standing on the staging which closely covered the shaft, he called to the men above to send down the timber. They began to lower it when it slipped through the rope and coming down struck a stage plant about six feet above the level, and a piece of the plank struck the unfortunate man, with the above result. Mr. Lord was a man with many friends, a competent mechanic, and his sudden taking off has caused universal regret. He was about 30 years of age and leaves a wife and one child to mourn his loss. The remains were buried at Quinnesec Thursday, services being held at St. Mary’s church. A coroner’s jury, empanelled to inquire into the cause of death, returned a verdict of, [sic] accidental death.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume VI, Number 16 [Saturday, May 24, 1890], page 1, column 5

### Fatal Accident.

On Tuesday about 8 a.m. **Albert Ruchinsky**, a Polander[,] was killed by the cars at **East Vulcan**, under peculiar circumstances. Deceased had lost one leg and was employed at the stockpile to pick out any rock which might be in the ore as it was being shoveled into the wheel-barrows. It became necessary to move a number of loaded and empty cars at the dock, and two men got on to do the braking. Just as the cars started Ruchinsky[,] who was an energetic fellow[,] jumped on to help brake and in some way his foot slipped and his wooden leg not being of much use in such a place, he lost his balance and fell under the cars one of which passed partially over him, crushing him fearfully. He was conveyed to his boarding house and survived until about one o’clock when death ended his sufferings. The accident occurred at the main shaft stockpile and was undoubtedly caused by the misjudgment of deceased who had been told not to attempt to handle the cars, at any time. The Coroner called a jury who were to have finished their inquiry last night. The remains were buried Thursday.

LATER – The jury met Thursday afternoon and after hearing the evidence in which it was shown that the deceased had been repeatedly warned by the Capt. and the boss not to get on the cars, a verdict was rendered that the death was accidental but that deceased himself was to blame.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 18 [Thursday, September 22, 1904], page 5, column 2

## VULCAN VARIETIES.

**Peter Setlak**, a trammer at the **East Vulcan mine**[,] was killed last Friday morning by falling from an ascending cage to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of 980

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feet. Setlak, with several other men, were being hoisted to surface, and he evidently thought that the cage would stop at a tunnel on the first level, which has an opening on the side of the hill below the shaft-house, and attempted to step off from the cage at that point and fell to the bottom. The deceased was thirty-two years old and leaves a wife and two children who reside in Poland.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 19 [Thursday, September 29, 1904], page 5, column 2

## VULCAN VARIETIES.

Last Friday morning, during an electric storm, a fire occurred in No. 3 shaft at the **East Vulcan mine**, the fire is supposed to have been started by lightning. The fire caught in the shaft somewhere between a tunnel, leading from the side hill to the shaft, and the surface, and quickly reached the shaft-house, which being dry, was soon consumed. After the shaft-house had burned down, the timbers in the upper part of the shaft upon which the cage rested, became burned away so that they collapsed and with the cage fell down the shaft. The back draught caused by the falling timbers and cage, forced the flames into the tunnel and several men, who were in the tunnel with a hose, fighting the fire in the shaft, were badly burned about the hands and face, but no so seriously but that they will recover. The following are the names of the injured: **Thos. Gironimi, Mateo Gironimi, Walenty Moocka, Mike Grodesky, Giocinta Casagranda, Basilio Recla, Ricardo Recla** and **Giovani Recla**.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 30 [Thursday, December 7, 1916], page 3, column 1

## NORWAY NEWS NUGGETS

**Louis Chesa [sic – Chiesa]** was found dead at the bottom of the shaft at the **East Vulcan mine** of the **Penn Iron Mining company** last Wednesday. Chesa [sic – Chiesa] was employed as cage conductor. How the accident resulting in his death happened cannot be explained, as there were no witnesses. He must have fallen a considerable distance, as the body was badly crushed. Chesa [sic – Chiesa] was twenty-two years of age. The remains were taken to the home of his father, the only relative in this section. **Coroner Cudlip** was called, but he did not consider it necessary to hold an inquest.

## VULCAN MINE

Vulcan, Dickinson County

*The Mining Journal*, Marquette, Marquette County, Michigan, Number 467 [Saturday, June 30, 1877], page 1, columns 4-5

**MENOMINEE RANGE ITEMS.** – A man working at the **Breitung mine** cut his hand quite severely with an ax, which will lay him up for a few days. His name is **Lego [sic – Legault]**.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume 1, Number 9 [Saturday, February 26, 1881], page 3, column 3

TOO LATE for insertion last week, we learned of a sad accident that occurred in the **Vulcan mine** on Friday. Two miners, one named **Wm. Pomeroy** and the other an **Italian** – name unknown – were at work timbering up a dangerous portion of the roof, when a mass became detached and

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

falling crushed both of them. When the debris was removed, they were dead.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 47 [Saturday, November 19, 1881], page 3, column 4

**FAULKIN MITCHEL** and **John McCormick** were instantly killed, at the **Vulcan mine**, on Friday of last week, by a fall of twenty tons of rock. Another man, who was with them, had a leg broken. They were under two sets of timber and lagging, when the fall occurred but the immense weight crushed timbers over two feet in thickness, just like pipestems, and when they thought that safety was insured, the accident happened. A coroners [*sic coroner's*] jury was impaneled [*sic – impaneled*], who after hearing the testimony, disagreed. A second jury exonerated the company, from any blame in the matter.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 6 [Saturday, March 14, 1885], page 1, column 2

An Italian, named **Benianino Polla**, fell down **No. 2 shaft** at the **Vulcan mine**, a distance of 50 feet, Friday of last week, and strange to relate was scarcely injured. He was engaged at the time letting timber down into the shaft, and in some manner slipped and fell with the above result.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 582 [Thursday, May 26, 1898], page 3, columns 3-4

## ACCIDENT AT VULCAN.

### A Miner Loses His Life and Two Others

### Are Slightly Injured.

About 10 o'clock last night there was a cave in of ore at the **Vulcan mine**, operated by the **Penn Company**, and an Italian by the name of **John Cruzolla** lost his life, and two fellow workmen, **David Cruzolla**, a brother of the victim, and **Angelo Valecco**, were injured. The two latter were gotten out in a short time, but the other was more unfortunate. He was buried under a quantity of ore and his life was crushed out before he could be rescued. In fact it was not until this morning that his body was secured, as it was in a hard bad place for the men to work.

The two injured men were taken to the hospital at Norway, where medical attention was given them. Everything possible was done by **Superintendent Kelly** to promptly aid the men. The Vulcan mine has been very fortunate, this being the first accident of any moment that has occurred in nearly five years. There were rumors in this city this morning that 12 men were killed, but careful investigation shows that only one life was lost and that the facts are as above stated.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 583 [Friday, May 27, 1898], page 3, column 4

### The Vulcan Mine Accident.

The body of **John Cruzolla**, who was killed in a cave in of ore at the **Vulcan mine** Wednesday night, has not yet been recovered. **Coroner Cudlip** will hold an inquest as soon as the body is secured. As fast as excavations were made yesterday more ore caved in and the work was exceedingly perilous. The two men who were injured are doing nicely and will soon be at work again.

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 584 [Saturday, May 28, 1898], page 3, column 2

## CITY NEWS ITEMS.

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The body of **John Cruzolla** was unearthed in the **Vulcan mine** yesterday. **Coroner Cudlip** has impaneled a jury and will hold an inquest. The body was not badly crushed, death having come from suffocation.

## WEST VULCAN MINE

Vulcan, Dickinson County

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 8 [Saturday, March 28, 1885], page 1, column 4

## LOST HIS LEG.

**Francisco Verneti** had his leg amputated at the **Norway hospital** Wednesday last, that being the only remedy left in the opinion of the doctors that would give him a chance at life.

Verneti was injured in the **West Vulcan mine** in April last, nearly a year ago. He had a stick of giant powder stuck in the leg of his boot, which in some manner caught fire, burning the skin completely off his leg from the ankle to a short distance above the knee. He was removed to his boarding house, but two months afterward was taken to the hospital. Grafting was resorted to and followed up until 6,000 grafts had been used. Some of the grafts were brought from as far away as Chicago, their vitality being scientifically maintained during transportation. The grafting worked admirably as far as it went, but the trouble

was that enough material could not be procured in the short space of time allotted to man here below to cover the wounded member. The patient stood the surgical operation well, and is now doing very nicely. **Dr. Hirschmann**, assisted by **Drs. Jones, Lockart** and **Kimball**, attended to the carving.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 11 [Saturday, April 18, 1885], page 1, column 2

The Italian, **Venetti**, who had his leg amputated, an account of which appeared in these columns a short time ago, is now on a fair way to recovery. The hospital steward reports that his appetite has grown to something wonderful, in fact that it would bankrupt any ordinary boarding house at the usual rate for board.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 16 [Saturday, May 23, 1885], page 1, column 1

The Italian, **Venetti**, has so far recovered that he will probably be discharged from the hospital some time [sic – *sometime*] next week. He eats so heartily that even his crutches are beginning to show signs of fattening.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume I, Number 34 [Saturday, September 26, 1885], page 1, column 5

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

On Saturday last, **Albino Sieler**, a miner at the **Gest** [sic – *West*] **Vulcan mine**, was injured by a falling rock. The injury necessitated the amputation of his left hand. The operation was performed by **Dr.**

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

**Jones**, and the patient is now at the **Norway hospital**, doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 12 [Saturday, April 17, 1886], page 1, column 3

On Tuesday last at about 10 a.m., while **Bazilio Zaroni** and **Carlo Riggote** were working in one of the “rooms” in **No. 1 shaft**, at the **West Vulcan mine**, the former was instantly killed and the latter seriously hurt. It appears from the evidence given at the coroner’s inquest that the two men were preparing to put in a sett [*sic – set*] of timbers, and that Bazilio Zaroni, the deceased, remarked to his partner that a piece of ground above, and almost touching their heads, was not very safe, and that if he (Riggote) would stand out of the way he would bar it down. The words had hardly been uttered when, while Riggote was in the act of stepping back, the rock came down, striking the instantly killing Zaroni and badly bruising Riggote. The deceased leaves a wife and three children to mourn his untimely death. The remains were buried at Quinnesec on Wednesday last.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 15 [Saturday, May 8, 1886], page 1, column 2

## REMARKABLE ESCAPE.

An Italian miner, **Joseph Frangoe**, at the **West Vulcan mine**, who was working in the timber gang, had an experience on Wednesday last which, while attended with serious results, was nevertheless one of the most remarkable escapes from instant death that has come to our knowledge for some time. It appears that he was engaged in getting some timber ready to send down

No. 2 shaft (which was sunk at an angle of about 72 **degrees**) when by some unknown cause he was precipitated backward into the shaft and fell a distance of about 118 ft. When picked up and brought to the **Norway hospital** it was found that he had sustained a fracture of the right leg below the knee and a dislocation of the hip joint of the same leg. He is being cared for at the hospital, and unless something unknown develops itself, will soon be on his feet again.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 17 [Saturday, May 22, 1886], page 1, column 4

**Felice Brida**, a native of Tyrol, aged 22 years, met his death at the **West Vulcan mine** on Tuesday last. It appears that [*the*] deceased, who had been at work in the mine but seven days, was working near one of the shutes [*sic – chutes*] or mills through which the ore is dropped to the level below and accidently stepped into the hole and fell a distance [*of*] 65 feet. His skull was fractured and he sustained internal injuries from which he expired some twelve hours afterward. The hole through which he fell is so small that it seems strange a man could fall through without making an effort to save himself.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 17 [Saturday, May 22, 1886], page 1, column 2

The funeral services of **Felice Brida** were largely attended, at St. Mary’s church, Thursday forenoon.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 24 [Saturday, July 10, 1886], page 1, column 5

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## ACCIDENTS.

On Thursday last **John Romundi**, of the **West Vulcan**, met with a singular accident. A crew of men were employed in taking down some bad ground when more of it come [*sic – came*] down than had been expected and the concussion, or rush of displaced air, knocked John into a shaft. In his fall he managed to catch hold of a piece of timber, and a car which followed him into the shaft struck him while passing him, and fractured his ankle bone. He was quickly rescued from his perilous position and will soon be as good as new.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 29 [Saturday, August 14, 1886], page 1, column 3

–We visited the **Norway hospital** this week and found that the accident ward now contains six patients. Some of these, however, are nearly well, and one has been an inmate for a long time, having received an injury which will render him helpless for life[.] Two of the recent inmates are from the **West Vulcan mine** and are named **Tobias** and **Peter Zadra**. They were injured by a blast on the 3d inst. [*of this month*]. One is not very seriously injured, but the other will probably lose the sight of one eye. The hospital has recently been repainted and fitted up until everything looks as bright as a new pin. It is without a doubt a fine institution and no pains or expense are spared to make the patients comfortable.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 32 [Saturday, September 4, 1886], page 1, column 2

–An **Italian** [*Peter Zadra*] who was injured at the **West Vulcan mine** some weeks ago, but who seemed to be recovering, died of heart disease on Thursday of last week, at the **Norway hospital**.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 33 [Saturday, September 11, 1886], page 1, column 5

## VULCAN.

**Tobias Zadra**, who was injured with his brother at the **West Vulcan mine** some time ago, (the latter having since died from heart disease at the **Norway hospital**), started for his old country home on Tuesday.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 13 [Saturday, April 30, 1887], page 1, column 2

–An **Italian miner** at the **West Vulcan mine** fell while coming up the shaft yesterday morning, and broke his thigh. He is now at the **Norway hospital**, and is doing well.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 15 [Saturday, May 14, 1887], page 1, column 3

## DIED.

**AMEDIO** – At Vulcan, Wednesday, the 11th inst. [*of this month*], from effects of accident in **West Vulcan** – **Amedio**[,] aged about 45 years. The deceased leaves a wife and several children in Tyrol, Austria, to mourn his loss. The funeral services were held at St. Mary's Church, by Fr. Kehoe on Thursday, and a large number of

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

fellow countrymen of the deceased, followed the remains to Quinnesec cemetery.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 30 [Saturday, August 27, 1887], page 1, column 3

—A man named **Brandt**, who was injured on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month at **West Vulcan mine**, but who was recovering as fast as could be expected from his wounds, was attacked on Saturday last by cholera morbus, and died that night. A coroner's jury was empanelled and a verdict rendered in accordance with the facts as above stated. The remains were taken to Vulcan, and from there to the Swedish M.E. church at this place, where services were held, when the remains were deposited in the Norway cemetery, followed by a large procession.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 33 [Saturday, September 17, 1887], page 1, column 4

## VULCAN.

An Italian miner named **Guisippi** [*sic – Giuseppe*] **Colovini**, at the **West Vulcan mine**, was seriously injured by falling about 60 feet, on Wednesday.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 15 [Saturday, May 12, 1888], page 8, column 2

## FELL ONE HUNDRED FEET.

**Antoloni Tolamini**, an Italian employed in the **West Vulcan mine**, on Tuesday night fell from a ladderway in **No. 2 shaft** to the bottom, a distance of about one

hundred feet[.] It seems he and **Adolf Anderson** were working about the shaft and when they had finished work started up the ladder, the Italian in the lead, when **Trewartha** told them to keep off the ladder as it was loosened and ready to come down. They paid but little attention to what was told them one of them saying, "There's lots of men in America if we do get killed!" When the Italian and the ladder fell the Swede was about twenty feet up the shaft and was struck, falling to the bottom. They were picked up and taken to the hospital on stretchers and the physician found the Swede had one leg broken and a few bruises on his body while the Italian had his upper jaw fractured, his tongue nearly severed, all the ribs on one side except the upper one, was [*sic – were*] broken, and his head badly injured. Tolamini, it is thought, will not recover. The officers in charge of the mine and the company is [*sic – are*] exonerated from all blame.

[NOTE: According to the Catholic Church records in Vulcan, Antonium Tamanini died 12 October 1888. Menominee Court House, Menominee, Menominee County, Michigan, Death Records state **A. Tomasini** died October 12, 1888. He was the grandfather of August "Jake" Menghini, Norway historian.]

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 18 [Saturday, June 2, 1888], page 1, column 5

## FATAL ACCIDENT.

On Tuesday, somewhat after noon, two men at the **West Vulcan mine** were carried into a rockmill and suffocated. The affair is a very sad one. It appears that the two men whose names were **Guiseppe** [*sic – Giuseppe*] **Bello** and **Guiseppe** [*sic – Giuseppe*] **Piedra** were sent to fill rock into

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a room above the 7th level at the vertical shaft. A mill carries the rock from the 5th level to the 8th. About 24 feet above the 7th level occurs a set off in the mill of about 4 ft. and at this point it was tapped to allow rock to run out, with which to fill the room, and the two unfortunate men were instructed to shovel it out into the room. Trammers were dumping rock into the mill at the 5th level, and others were taking it out through a chute at the 8th, and those above the seventh were shoveling away what ran out after the mill was full below. The shift boss had been with the men after dinner and was just leaving them when he heard a rush and the shrieks of the men and hastened back to find that they had disappeared in the mill. Aid was at once summoned and the bodies taken out about 10 ft. from where they went in. The men were not mangled and death doubtless occurred from suffocation the rock being fine and wet. The cause of the accident will ever remain a mystery, but it is thought that the rock "hung up" in the mill below and that the men were standing on the rock in the mill when it dropped from under their feet and the counter drop form above carried them down. The mill was 3x4 ft, [sic – ft.] in size. One of the victims leaves a wife and two children and the other a wife and four children to mourn their untimely end. A coroner's inquest was held and a verdict in accordance with the facts given above was rendered. The remains were followed to the cemetery at Quinnesec on Wednesday by a very large number of people, including the members of the benevolent society to which they belonged.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 38 [Saturday, October 20, 1888], page 1, column 6

## VULCAN.

An **Italian miner** was killed at the **West Vulcan mine** on Thursday of last week. He was working in a winze and had charged and fired three holes, and was being hoisted in the bucket when he fell out about 25 ft. from the bottom. The three blasts went off about him, and he was shockingly mangled, although he lived some time after being taken out. The remains were buried Sunday, followed to the grave by a number of friends.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 41 [Saturday, November 10, 1888], page 1, column 2

## FATAL ACCIDENT.

A Finlander named **John Anderson**[.] who was employed at the **West Vulcan**[.] was killed Friday of last week by a fall of eighteen feet. It was his business to look after the ropes and oil the pulleys around the mine. Friday morning while some of the men were taking the ladders to go down, and one man was getting ready a piece of timber to send down in the cage, Anderson dropped from above and struck on the floor of the shaft house almost striking the lander in his fall. He was at once taken up and cared for, but his skull was badly fractured and he died during Friday night. It was not known what caused his fall nor is it known what called him to the spot from which he must have fallen. It is supposed however that he had been examining a shieve and attempted to cross on a piece of timber to the other side of the shaft house, instead of coming down and going up in a safer manner provided for that purpose.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume IV, Number 46 [Saturday, December 15, 1888], page 1, columns 4-5

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

## MINE ACCIDENT.

On Saturday a very sad accident occurred at the **West Vulcan mine** by which **Thomas Henry Beard**, a young English man, 24 years old, lost his life. It appears that the deceased was one of the shaft men who had just finished sinking the vertical shaft at the Vulcan, from the 10th to the 11th level and was engaged with his partners in putting in cage runners or guides to enable the cage to be sent to the bottom. Saturday afternoon deceased and his partners went down for the afternoon shift, and the cage was stopped at the ninth level, when deceased got into the bucket in another compartment of the shaft to go to the 10th level to “ring down” the cage, the “pentes” having been taken out at the 10th level to put the runners down, and a three inch plank was put in on one side of the shaft to cross on. He was lowered until he was low enough to reach this plank and gave the signal to stop. This was the last that is known of him in life. His partners waited some time for him to ring and have them lowered, and then called to him but received no reply. They became alarmed and went to the bottom of the shaft as speedily as possible to find their worst fears realized and their comrade a mangled corpse. The manner of the accident can only be conjectured, and as the body was found in another compartment from that in which he descended, it is probable that he either missed the plank in crossing the “dividier” [*sic* – “*divider*”] and stepped into the shaft, or that he slipped from the plank after he had crossed it. The deceased was an exemplary young man and leaves many friends, and we believe, two brothers to mourn his death. The remains were buried on Sunday from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. **Samuel Rundle**, relatives who live at the **Norway mine**. A jury was called, and **Coroner Flanagan** went down himself to

the scene of the accident, and a verdict was rendered, Monday, of accidental death.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume IX, Number 41 [Saturday, November 11, 1893], page 1, column 25

## MINE ACCIDENTS.

The community was startled on Thursday noon by hearing a report to the effect that a miner was killed and another seriously injured underground at the **West Vulcan mine**. The men, as usual, descended to work at their occupation, and were at work in the 11th level, of West Vulcan shaft, drifting. It appears that the holes were charged and everything in readiness to blast, and to loosen the ground somewhat they fired one of the holes, listened for the report and then went in to fire the others, and had no sooner reached the end of the drift, when one of the other holes exploded, killing **Richard Uren** instantly and seriously injuring **Samuel Barrett**. Both are well-known. The deceased, who is 28 years of age, leaves a widow and two children, and was a member of three orders, the members of which will follow the remains to their last resting place, [*sic* - ;] the latter is a single young man, and is much respected, is now lying at the **company's hospital**, the injuries being across the neck, breast and left shoulder, but, we are pleased to say, there is every hope of his recovery. He is a member of the order of Rechabites, and is attended by a brother member, **James Watters**. Both have had many years of experience in underground work and are, therefore practical miners. What the verdict will be remains to be seen, but so far as known no blame is attached to any one [*sic* – *anyone*].

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 27 [Saturday, August 3, 1895], page 8, column 1

## ACCIDENT.

**Antonia** [*sic* – *Antonio*] **Dian** met with a bad accident at the **West Vulcan mine** yesterday morning. Timbermen were preparing to put in a set of timber but a protruding piece of rock had to be removed before the work could be accomplished. Antonia failed to dislocate it with his pick and was going to blast it out with a stick of powder which he placed behind the rock. He was in the act of cutting the fuse, when the rock gave way and knocked him down, mangling his left hand. He was conveyed to the **Penn company hospital** where it was found necessary to amputate the entire hand with the exception of the thumb. He was also injured in the abdomen. Dian is an Italian and married.

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 37 [Saturday, October 12, 1895], page 1, column 3

## DIED.

Last week we noted the injury and serious condition of **Henry Engebus**, who was hurt at the **West Vulcan sawmill**. Saturday night the end came and an honorable and upright man passed to the great beyond. The immediate cause of death was diabetes, which was probably aggravated [*sic* – *aggravated*] by the injury, but which must soon [*sic* – *sooner*] or late [*sic* – *later*] have proved fatal. **Doctors Jones** and **Brasseur** were in attendance but medical skill could do nothing to save life. Deceased was a native of Belgium and was about 43 years old. He left a widow and three children to mourn his sudden

demise, and a host of sorrowing friends who followed the remains to the Norway cemetery, Tuesday morning, after appropriate services at St. Mary's church.

*[Look for article in Volume XI, Number 36 for Saturday, October 5, 1895, for details of the accident.]*

*The Current*, Norway, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 49 [Saturday, January 8, 1898], page 1, column 5

## DEADLY DYNAMITE.

### Two Men Terribly Mangled at West Vulcan Thursday Morning.

Early Thursday morning **Dan Bjork** and **Vincenzo Zorzi**[,] while charging a hole with dynamite at **West Vulcan**[,] were terribly mangled by a premature explosion. The two unfortunates were taken to the **Penn Co.'s hospital** at Norway where it was found that both were badly lacerated and burned and that should they survive their injuries and the great nervous shock they will both be blind. They are being carefully attended and hopes are entertained this morning that they will live. Bjork[,] who is a Swede[,] is about 35 years old, was a very intelligent and popular citizen and has a wife and six children living in the first ward. He has many friends who hope for his recovery and for what now seems almost impossible a restoration of his sight.

Zorzi is a young Italian or Austrian about 19 years old and has not been long in the U.S. He also has a large circle of friends and acquaintances who are hoping for more favorable results than now seem possible.

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There is much talk as to how the accident occurred but it is questionable whether the injured men are in condition to tell what they know of the cause.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 623 [Thursday, July 14, 1898], page 3, column 4

## A MINER KILLED.

### West Vulcan Furnishes Another Fatal Accident.

A telephone message was received late this afternoon notifying the coroner of a fatal accident to a miner at the West Vulcan mine. The victim was an Italian laborer [August Lorenzo] whose name could not be learned. The accident was caused as usual by a cave in. **Coroner Cudlip** and **Mine Inspector Trestrail** left immediately for the scene of the accident.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 628 [Wednesday, July 20, 1898], page 3, column 2

## CITY NEWS ITEMS.

**Coroner Cudlip** held an inquest at Norway this morning upon the body of **August Lorenzo**, killed at the **West Vulcan** mine last week. He found that the death was accidental.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 11 [Thursday, August 2, 1900], page 1, column 5

## FATALITY AT VULCAN.

### Thomas Sheridan Falls From a Cage and is Instantly Killed Last Saturday Night.

The **West Vulcan** mine of the Penn Iron Mining company was the scene of a fatal accident last Saturday night. The victim was **Thomas Sheridan**, a former resident of Iron Mountain. Sheridan had charge of the pumps on the twelfth level. Early in the evening he had complained of not feeling well and requested a fellow workman to secure a carriage to take him to his home. This was done, and Sheridan undertook to ride in the cage unaided, stating that he was feeling much better. The proper signals were given, but when the cage arrived at the surface it was unoccupied. Search was made at once for the young man and his remains were found on the fourteenth level horribly mangled. His body was cut in two, skull and jaw fractured, limbs broken and face badly disfigured. It is thought that he must have been attacked with a fainting spell when near the surface and fallen out of the cage. His injuries would indicate that he was caught in the machinery and dragged for some distance. The deceased was about twenty-seven years of age. His mother resides on Kent street and he also has two sisters residing here – Mrs. **William Couillard** and Mrs. **John Harnes**. The remains were brought to this city and the funeral was conducted by **Rev. N.H. Nosbisch**, of St. Mary's church, on Tuesday morning.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 24 [Thursday, November 8, 1900], page 1, column 4

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## Fatality at West Vulcan.

At the **West Vulcan Mines** of the **Penn Iron [Mining]** company, **Jacob Bray** was caught in a cave of ground and timber and instantly killed. Owing to the nature of the ground where the cave occurred, and the great danger of another cave in case the splintered timbers interlocked with the ore taken out without due caution, the work of removing the remains is progressing slowly, and we believe the body has not yet been recovered.

Number 43 [Saturday, October 27, 1883], page 8, column 1

## Crystal Falls Matters.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

A piece of ore, falling from an ascending bucket, at the **Youngstown mine**, struck **Wm. Dwire** on the back of the head last week, producing a severe scalp wound. Passing on, it bruised his shoulder and knocked him down, resulting in serious internal injuries. Under Dr. Metcalf's care, he is doing well and will soon be around again.

## WAUCEDAH

### BREEN MINE

Waucedah, Dickinson County

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

## Range Items.

**MICHAEL HARTNEFF** fell from the trestle at the **Breen mine** and was so injured that **death** ensued.

## IRON RIVER

### CHICAGON MINE

Iron River, Iron County

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 36 [Thursday, January 26, 1911], page 1, column 4

## Peculiar Fatality.

**Joseph Desmar**, employed on the **Chicago & North-Western extension** to the **Chicagoan mine** in Iron county, was accidentally killed while blasting out rock. The men are now working in the big cut between the county road and the mine. A blast was ready and the men warned to move away. They went a distance of 550 feet and all stood in a group watching the explosion. A large rock, about a foot in diameter, was hurled toward them with the speed of a cannon ball. A warning cry went up and all ran, including the deceased. The rock struck a rail and bounded just high

## IRON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

## CRYSTAL FALLS

### YOUNGSTOWN MINE

Crystal Falls, Iron County

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

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enough to strike the man on the head. It cut the portion of the head above the nose completely off, death being instantaneous. The man was a stranger in these parts. He came from Chicago but three days before the accident.

The remains of the deceased were interred on Tuesday, the obsequies being attended [sic – attended] by a large concourse of relatives and friends.

## NANAIMO MINE

Iron River, Iron County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 35 [Saturday, September 1, 1883], page 4, column 1

### Iron River Ripples.

[Special Correspondence.]

At noon on Monday, a sad accident occurred at the **Nanaimo mine**, which resulted in the instant death of **James Luxmore**, brother to **Thomas Luxmore**, and in serious, though not fatal injury, to **J. Pender**. At the time of the accident Mr. Luxmore was tamping a charge, preparatory to blasting, and it is supposed that a spark was struck from the rock or that the old fuse retained fire, which ignited the charge. About three and a half kegs of powder were in the hole when it exploded. The unfortunate man was thrown fully 200 feet in the air. The occurrence has cast a gloom over the town as Mr. Luxmore was greatly respected by all classes, alike for his affability and his spirit of usefulness. Being an able orator, and an earnest Christian, he cheerfully took upon himself the task of conducting church services, at whatever time the town happened to be without a minister, and it was announced last Sunday that he would preach on the Sabbath following. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his untimely end.

## MANSFIELD

### MANSFIELD MINE

Mansfield, Iron County

*The Range-Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XV, Number 26 [Saturday, September 30, 1893], page 1, column 5

## THE MANSFIELD MINE HORROR

### THIRTY-SEVEN MINERS WERE DROWNED THURSDAY NIGHT.

#### The Water Rushes in from the Michigamme and Drowns Them Like Rats in a Trap – Who Is to Blame?

Early yesterday news was received here of the worst accident that has ever occurred in the Lake Superior country – thirty-seven miners being entrapped and drowned in the Mansfield mine Thursday night.

The Mansfield mine is located on the banks of the Michigamme river, about seven miles from Crystal Falls and six from Sagola.

The shaft is but a few yards from the river bank, and one of the drifts extends under the same. This shaft is some six or seven hundred feet in depth, and Thursday

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night the thirty-seven victims were working at the bottom, when suddenly there was a crash, the wall between the river and the mine gave-way, and millions of gallons of water rushed into the mine. This was quickly followed by the dull booming of the levels as they caved in one after *[another]*, as the pillars were swept away by the mighty rush of water, and soon the whole mine collapsed, burying the victims at the bottom beyond recovery.

A spectator of the awful scene says that for two hours after the first crash the river bed below the mine was empty, the entire flow going into the mine – millions and millions of tons of water.

Who is to blame for this awful disaster? – a disaster that is without parallel in the history of iron mining. Last spring, when the mine was flooded from the hanging wall, a mining man predicted that a disaster like that which has occurred, would happened *[sic – happen]*. It is said that, at that time, when the lower levels were flooded, the miners, acting under orders from the superintendent, removed all the ore pillars in the upper levels. This no doubt hastened the collapse and prevented many of the men from escaping. All the men were married.

We have been unable to secure the names of the dead up to press hour.

## THE LATEST,

Information received this morning from Capt. C.T. Roberts, mine inspector, is to the effect that the total number of victims is twenty-eight, nine miners working in the shaft having escaped. Following we give the names of the dead:

W H. PIERCE,  
S JOHNSON,  
M HARRINGTON,  
A FORDSANI,  
S PETERS,  
F JOHNSON,

SAMUEL JOHNSON,  
F RECCO,  
SHELTING ZADRA,  
PETER FURY,  
NICK FORTONO,  
CHARLES POPE,  
JOHN REGULA,  
JAMES SRAGMAN,  
OLE CARLSON,  
JOSEPH KOLLA,  
JOHN HOLISTROM,  
B FORTINATO,  
JOHN KIRPPU,  
JOHN RANDOLO,  
JOHN WARNER,  
O LINDQUEST *[sic]*,  
CHRIS ARCENGELO,  
A STEPENO,  
AUGUST COLOGUN,  
A CAUSTAUL,  
V ZADRA,  
CELEST NEGRIL.

Capt. Roberts says that not more than one-third of the men were married.

The fee of the mine is owned by J.M. Longyear, of Marquette, who leased the same to the Caledonia Mining company, the stock of which is mainly owned by Edward Keyes and Emill Guensberg, of Florence, and Dr. Bond<sup>[,]</sup> of Iron River, who sub-leased it to the firm of Corrigan, Ives & Co.

Erickson, the superintendent<sup>[,]</sup> passed through Iron Mountain yesterday morning, on his way home from Chicago. Two years ago he was driving a delivery wagon at the Falls. A mining engineer has not been employed for more than a year, and under the circumstances it is surprising that men have been secured to venture into the death-trip *[sic – deathtrap]*.

Let their *[sic – there]* be a rigid investigation.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain,  
Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5,*

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Number 31 [Thursday, December 27, 1900], page 4, column 5

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

– **Thomas Hooper** was killed by a cave at the **Mastodon mine** Friday of last week and was buried on Saturday.

## BRIEF CITY NEWSITES.

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**August Poncari**, the insane man who stabbed **Fedele Chisci** at the Mansfield mine last Friday, attempted suicide at the Crystal Falls jail Monday night. He turned on the water, and put his head under the hydrant, trying thus to drown *[need to copy remainder of this article and article on stabbing in preceding issue]*

## FLORENCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

## MASTODON

## COMMONWEALTH

### MASTODON MINE

Mastodon, Iron County

### BADGER MINE

Commonwealth, Florence County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 23 [Saturday, June 2, 1883], page 1, column 5

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 10 [Thursday, July 30, 1896], page 1, column 4

THE bright little settlement of **Mastodon** was sorely afflicted last week by the death of two of her citizens – **John Linnblod**, a miner, killed by falling ore, and **Richard Chigwadden**, who died from inflammation of the lungs. Both funerals were held on last Saturday, and the pall of death and sadness attendant seemed to overspread all.

### SHORT HAPPENINGS.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume III, Number 35 [Saturday, September 1, 1883], page 1, column 6

**Giles King**, night captain at the Badger mine, Commonwealth, was crushed to death under a mass of ore while in the discharge of his duties last Friday night. Capt. King was a former resident of Iron Mountain, moving from here some six years ago. He was quite prominent in labor circles and took an active part in politics. He was the Demo-Labor candidate for representative in the state legislature, but was defeated by **Hon. B.S. Waite**. Capt. King leaves a wife and five children in comparatively comfortable circumstances. He was a good citizen, and many friends will mourn his untimely death.

## Crystal Falls Matters.

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## BUCKEYE MINE

Commonwealth, Florence County

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

## Commonwealth, Florence County

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 21 [Thursday, October 13, 1910], page 1, column 6

## BURIED BY TONS OF ORE.

### Frank Johnson Killed Last Monday Morning at Buckeye Mine.

**Frank Johnson**, a miner employed in the **Buckeye mine** at Commonwealth, was instantly killed by a heavy fall of ore last Monday morning.

Johnson's death is due to his refusal to listen to the advise [*sic – advice*] of the mining captain, who had warned him to leave the vicinity of the back from which the ore came away.

Johnson, with a number of other miners, was engaged in trimming down the back on the third level under the direction of the mining captain. The shaky condition of the ground was noticeable and the men had been urged to be constantly on guard against a sudden fall.

A few moments before the ground came down, the mining captain noticed the slipping and ordered all the men out. All the men left the room but Johnson, who steadily maintained there was no danger, and instead of leaving with the other men, took a position almost under the hanging mass. Suddenly the ground came down and Johnson was buried under tons of ore. No doubt he was instantly killed. The body was recovered in the evening.

Johnson was about fifty-years [*sic – fifty years*] of age. He is survived by four children, the mother having died several years ago.

## COMMONWEALTH MINE

[Check for article for Saturday, February 19, 1881, regarding this accident.]

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 9 [Saturday, February 26, 1881], page 3, column 2

**ELIAS PERSSON**, the man who was killed at Commonwealth, on Saturday last, has a wife and three children, at Ishpeming, where he formerly resided. He had just worked two days at the time, previous to his unfortunate end.

WHILE the body of **Elias Persson** was lying in a vacant building on Florence street, waiting until a coffin and a grave could be prepared, some one [*sic – someone*] stole the overcoat, with which the body was covered, and in place of it substituted a newspaper.

IT does not reflect much credit on the Scanvinavian friends of **Elias Persson**, that they allowed him to be buried by the town authorities. Friendship is sometimes very cheap.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 37 [Saturday, September 10, 1881], page 3, column 5

**Andrew G. Bernquest**, a Scandinavian, was perhaps fatally [*sic – fatally*] injured, at the **Commonwealth mine**, about 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning, by a bucket, when being lowered from the derrick into the mine, striking the edge of a car, at the bottom of the pit, and tipping over, hitting him on the top of the head and fracturing the skull. The injury is very serious. **Dr. Odell**, the mine surgeon, who was called to attend him, extracted five pieces of bone

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form the fracture; one was about half an inch in diameter. Up to the present writing, it is not known how the case will terminate. Partial paralysis has been noticed in the right arm.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 43 [Saturday, October 20, 1888], page 5, column 5

## Instantly Killed.

A miner named **Matt Sundien** was killed at the **Commonwealth mine**, [sic] shortly after 1 o'clock, [sic] yesterday afternoon. He fell head first down the winze in "**B**" **shaft**, a distance of seventy-seven feet. His head was crushed to a jelly and death was instantaneous. The deceased was a native of Sweden. He leaves a wife and several children, and has two brothers living in Commonwealth. The mine was shut down after the accident and work will not be resumed until Monday. The fatality caused intense sorrow in Commonwealth.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume IX, Number 42 [Saturday, October 12, 1889], page 5, column 2

## Three Mining Accidents.

**John Grimord**, an employe [sic – employee] at the **Commonwealth mine**, was painfully injured at an early hour last Saturday morning, by being squeezed between an empty ore car and one of the derrick posts at the Davidson pit. He was injured internally, but, though suffering terribly, will probably pull through. Mr. Grimord is a married man and resides in one of the company's houses, beyond the school house. He is a son of **Eli Grimord**, the well-known homesteader.

**Martin Ek**, a miner, was struck on the head by a piece of falling rock, at the **Commonwealth mine**, the other day, and sustained a painful scalp wound six inches in length, concussion of the brain resulting. Mr. Ek is 25 years of age, is unmarried, and boards at the house of **John Walsh**, Commonwealth.

## FLORENCE MINE

Florence, Florence County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 26 [Saturday, June 25, 1881], page 3, column 3

**JOHN O'BRIEN** met with quite an accident about half past one o'clock, yesterday morning. He was driving a dump car in the **Florence mine**, and in some way it struck him on the left leg making a comminuted fracture. **Dr. Washburne** set the fracture.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 45 [Saturday, November 5, 1881], page 3, column 1

**FRANZ COEAUR**, an employee of the **Florence mine**, broke his leg on Thursday afternoon. We have not been informed how the accident occurred.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 49 [Saturday, December 3, 1881], page 3, column 4

TWO accidents occurred at the **Florence mine** last week. One was caused by a bucket of ore breaking loose from the derrick. In its fall it struck **Gus Patolsky**, on one of his legs and broke it. The other was occasioned by a dump car

# MENOMINEE RANGE HISTORY – MINING ACCIDENTS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

jumping the pocket, and thereby throwing **John Wilson**, who had charge of it, on top of the stock pile [*sic* – *stockpile*] below. He sustained a very bad compound and comminuted fracture of one of his legs. The company's surgeon, **Dr. W.H. Washburne**, has the cases in charge and the men are doing as well as could be expected. The doctor has now five broken legs in his care. It is to be hoped that the men are all insured in some good accident insurance company.

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A VERY unfortunate and fatal accident, [*sic*] occurred at the **Florence mine** on Wednesday morning last, by which **Peter Anderson** was instantly killed. In clearing away for some of the new improvements it became necessary to blast certain stumps, standing on the higher ground. Anderson was one of those whose duty it was to give notice of the firing of the blast. He did so and then retreated to the other side of the engine house – distance perhaps of 150 yards. He had just stepped by the corner to see the blast go off, as miners frequently do, when a piece of something came directly towards him, with the straightness of a cannon shot, and struck him square in the center of the forehead, crushing the skull to peices [*sic* – *pieces*]. A coronors [*sic* – *coroner's*] jury was immediately impanelled [*sic* – *impaneled*], and an inquest held on the body. The jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the evidence, and exonerated the mining company from all blame in the matter. The remains were buried in the Florence cemetery. The deceased was a Scandinavian, who had been at work at the mine about a week, when the accident occurred. This is the first person who has been killed at this mine.

**[NOTE: First person killed at the Florence Mine.]**

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 50 [Saturday, December 9, 1882], page 1, column 6

A LAMENTABLE accident occurred at the **Florence mine**, Monday. A young man named **George Jones**, employed as drill carrier, when a blast was about to be fired, took shelter behind a breastwork of rock at a safe distance, apparently, from the charged hole. On the explosion occurring a large boulder [*sic* – *boulder*] on top of the breastwork was loosened by the shock and rolled down upon Jones' left leg, crushing it almost to a jelly. Amputation was found necessary to save his life and was performed successfully by **Drs. Washburne**, assisted by **Drs. Fortier** and **Odell**, and the patient is now doing as well as can be expected. He is a nephew of **John Urquart**, of Commonwealth. His parents reside at Ishpeming. The accident was entirely unexpected and unforeseen and no blame is attached to any one [*sic* – *anyone*].

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

A MINER named **E. Swanson**, at the **Florence mine**, was struck upon the head, Monday, by a falling rock, and suffered a severe scalp wound. At the time of the accident he was descending the ladder in one of the workings. The blow knocked him off and he fell to the bottom, some nine or ten feet. His injuries will confine him to the house a week or so his physician **Dr. Washburne** says.

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

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VII, Number 2 [Saturday, January 8, 1887], page 8, column 2

**Louis Paul**, aged about twenty-six years; a Scandinavian miner at the **Florence mine**, had both his legs fractured, one in two places, by a fall of ore on Thursday. He is doing as well as could be expected, under the most efficient care. It is a bad accident and may cost the unfortunate man his life.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume II, Number 50 [Saturday, January 8, 1887], page 1, column 5

## FLORENCE.

On Wednesday night last a serious accident occurred at the **Florence mine**. A large rock fell from the back of one of the stopes, struck the bottom of the level and rolled onto a man named **Louis Powell**. It caught the unfortunate man's legs, breaking them in four places, and dislocating one ankle joint. He is receiving the best of care from **Dr. Odill**.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VII, Number 17 [Saturday, April 23, 1887], page 5, column 1

The physicians attending **Frank Waring**, the unfortunate time-keeper [*sic – timekeeper*] of the **Florence mine**, who sustained frightful injuries by a fall in the mine in February last, entertain but slight hopes for his recovery. His brain was badly affected owing to an injury of the spine, and his mind is unbalanced at times.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume III, Number 12 [Saturday, April 23, 1887], page 8, column 1

## FLORENCE.

On Wednesday morning a man named **John Smith**, a German, recently from Mastodon, walked into **No. 2 shaft** at the mine, and there are but few hopes of his recovery from his injuries.

On Wednesday **Erick Svenson**, a man at work with the timbermen at **No. 4 shaft** at the **Florence**, fell about 40 feet, and sustained such injuries as will make his recovery doubtful.

On Wednesday last a **Scandinavian**, name unknown, had his foot badly injured by resting it on the skip at **No. 1 shaft** while a car was being dumped.

On Thursday night, last week, a young and able man, named **Johnson**, fell off the trestle at **No. 2 stock pile** [*sic – stockpile*], and was so badly injured that he died in a few hours.

**Frank Warren**, who was so badly injured at the mine some time ago, is said to be very low.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 7 [Saturday, February 11, 1888], page 5, column 2

## FELL DOWN A SHAFT.

### A Miner Meets with a Serious Accident at the Florence Mine.

**Fred Bergstone**, a miner, was painfully injured by falling down a shaft at the **Florence mine**, at an early hour yesterday morning. The unfortunate fellow belonged to the night shift, and was working in the

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bottom of No. 4 shaft, which has just been sunk a distance of 104 feet, for the opening up of a new level, the work of sinking being completed yesterday. At about 6 o'clock in the morning, or "quitting" time, Mr. Bergstone and his fellow workmen started to go to the surface. The former climbed up the first tier of timbers and started in the direction of a ladder, when in some unexplained manner his feet got entangled in a coil of bell rope, which caused him to trip up and fall headlong into the shaft, a distance of twenty feet. Mr. Bergstone truck the bottom of the shaft with great violence, receiving painful if not serious injuries. He was frightfully cut about the head and face, losing, it is said, a portion of his nose. One of his ankles was also badly cut and dislocated. The injured man was attended by Dr. R.W. Odell. He is unmarried. The fall sustained by Mr. Bergstone was a frightful one, from the fact of his falling into the shaft head first and it is considered wonderful that he escaped with his life.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VIII, Number 42 [Saturday, October 13, 1888], page 5, column 3

## AN AVALANCHE OF ORE.

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### SHOCKING FATALITY AT THE FLORENCE MINE.

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**George Thomas, a Pit Boss, the Victim – While Superintendent the Work of Trimming at the Bottom of the Fourth Level, He is Buried Under a Mass of Ore and Almost Instantly Killed – The Funeral on Tuesday – Verdict of the Coroner's Jury.**

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A sad accident occurred at the **Florence mine** on Sunday forenoon, a miner named **George Thomas** having been almost instantly killed by the fall of a mass of loose ore in one of the stopes at the bottom of **No. 4 shaft**. As is the usual custom, a number of men were engaged on Sunday morning "trimming dirt" where blasting had taken place the day before. This kind of work is generally performed on Sunday so as to have everything in readiness for hoisting on Monday morning. The work was being done under the direction of George Thomas, who was one of the pit bosses. The men had nearly completed their task at 10 o'clock, when one of the party asked Mr. Thomas what time it was. The unfortunate man looked at his watch and remarked, "We'll go up in about ten minutes." He returned the time-piece to his pocket, stooped over to pick up something, when, without the slightest warning, a huge mass of ore, said to have been half a car load [*sic – carload*] in quantity, fell from above directly upon Mr. Thomas. He was struck squarely on his back, his spine being terribly crushed and broken, death resulting in a few seconds. The dirt was quickly removed from the body, and the awe-stricken miners gently carried the remains of their friend and companion to the surface. **Dr. R.W. Odell** was hastily summoned, but as stated above Mr. Thomas was dead before the arrival of the physician. Death was, evidently almost instantaneous.

The deceased was 38 years of age, and was a hard working, industrious man. He was a general favorite at the mine, where he had been employed for some time. He leaves a young wife and three small children in rather poor circumstances. The family lived in one of the Florence Mining Company's houses, the last one at the northern end of Pewabic Street. They

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formerly boarded with Mr. and Mrs. **W.H. Hancock**, on Central Avenue.

The funeral, which was very largely attended, was held at the Presbyterian Church at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, **Rev. G.H. Whitney**, of Iron Mountain, officiating in the absence of **Rev. J.H. Fleming**. The interment took place at the Florence cemetery.

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## The Inquest.

An inquest was held on the body of **George Thomas** on Sunday afternoon. The verdict of the jury was as follows:

We, the undersigned jurors, find that George Thomas came to his death between the hours of 10 and 11 o'clock, A.M., October 7, 1888, while working in the fourth level of **No. 4 shaft** at the **Florence mine** by being accidentally struck by a mass of rock which fell from the roof of said level. In testimony whereof the said jurors, with the coroner on this inquest, have set their hands on this the 7th day of October, 1888.

**C.A. Hallett, John Reynolds, D.A. Fraser, J.J. Eskil, Michael Cosgrove** and **W.C. Haberkorn**, Jurors.

**ROBERT MITCHELL**, Coroner.

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume IX, Number 42 [Saturday, October 12, 1889], page 5, column 2

## Three Mining Accidents.

**Michael Bruno**, an Italian and a recent-comer to Florence, was seriously injured by being struck by a chunk of ore in No. 4 shaft, at the **Florence Mine**, at 2 o'clock Wednesday *[Need to copy the remainder of this paragraph.]*

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume XI,

Number 41 [Saturday, October 3, 1891], page 5, column 2

## A Miner Shockingly Injured.

A miner named **Ole Osquist** was terribly injured at the **Florence mine** at about 8 o'clock last night. He was engaged in trimming ore in one of the chambers in No. 5 shaft and, missing his footing, fell down one of the stopes, a distance of about forty feet. Osquist's escape from instant death was a very narrow one. His right arm was fractured, the right wrist *[Need to copy the remainder of this paragraph.]*

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 2, Number 36 [Thursday, January 27, 1898], page 1, column 3

## FATALITY AT FLORENCE.

**Gideon Trevarthan**, master mechanic at the **Florence mine**, received fatal injuries while engaged in moving a heavy piece of machinery last Tuesday morning. The large casting fell directly across his breast, crushing nearly every bone in his body and causing death in two hours. The deceased was well-known here. He leaves a wife and two small children.

*The Current*, Norway, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XIII, Number 52 [Saturday, January 29, 1898], page 1, column 3

## KILLED AT FLORENCE.

**Gideon Trevarthan** was crushed to death at the **Florence mine**, Tuesday, while moving a heavy piece of machinery. It is said that he was moving a large drum when some of the blocking gave 'way and allowed the drum to fall upon Mr. Trevarthan, and that he was so badly

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injured that he died in two hours. Deceased was an able mechanic and had been master mechanic of the Florence mine when it was operated. Since the suspension of operations he has looked after the pumping machinery and done such other work from time to time as presented itself. He was also a more than ordinary expert electrician. He had lived in Florence many years and was one of its most upright, prosperous and industrious citizens. He left a widow and two children to mourn his untimely death.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 28 [Thursday, December 2, 1909], page 4, column 3

## AROUND THE RANGE

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### The News of the Range Towns Condensed from Our Exchanges.

**Frank Stippa**, a young Polish miner, was accidentally killed at the **Florence mine** at about eleven o'clock last Friday morning. He was a machine helper and was working on a narrow place between third and fourth levels. While tightening bolts on the tripod, and using both of his hands in manipulating the wrenches, the tools slipped and Stippa lost his balance and tumbled backwards down the stope, falling a distance of seventy-five feet and near where a crew was tramping ore. When found by his comrades, one of whom was lowered down the stope by means of a rope shortly after the accident[,] the unfortunate miner's body was nearly covered with the ore than had rushed down the declivity with it, and examination showed that life was extinct, his neck having been broken. He was about twenty-

two years of age and had no relatives in this country.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 47 [Thursday, April 13, 1911], page 1, column 2

**Albert Johnson** had his skull fractured by a fall of ore at the **Florence mine** last Wednesday.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 42 [Thursday, March 6, 1913], page 8, column 4

**Walter Condroski**, a miner, while working at the **Florence mine**, was seriously injured Saturday night when he was struck upon his head and upper part of his body by pieces of ore falling from the second level. He is in a dangerous condition and probably will not survive.

## HUMBOLDT MINE

Florence, Florence County

*The Florence Mining News*, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 15 [Saturday, April 9, 1881], page 3, column 3

A fatal accident occurred at the **Humboldt mine** last week. It appears that **Samuel Boden**, a miner, had been temporarily assigned to the position of lander at the shaft and while so engaged slipped and fell to the bottom, a distance of eighty feet. He lived but a short time after being taken out.

## OUT OF AREA MINING ACCIDENTS

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## INVOLVING LOCAL RESIDENTS

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 591 [Tuesday, June 7, 1898], page 3, column 3

### KILLED IN A MINE.

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#### A Former Iron Mountain Boy Killed Near Central City, Colorado.

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Sanitary Officer **John Rule** received a dispatch from **Central City, Colorado**, this afternoon stating that his nephew **James Rule**, [sic] had been killed by a mine explosion near that city. No particulars of the accident were received. The victim of the explosion is well known in this city and has been in the west about two years. His father was killed at the **Pewabic mine** about a year ago. **Mrs. William Hoskins** is a sister of the unfortunate young man.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole No. 592 [Wednesday, June 8, 1898], page 3, column 2

### CITY NEWS ITEMS.

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The remains of **James Rule**, who was killed in a mine explosion at Central City, Colo., will arrive here Friday. He was a brother to **Peter Rule**, a member of Company E.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Second Year, Whole

No. 595 [Saturday, June 11, 1898], page 3, column 2

### CITY NEWS ITEMS.

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The remains of **James Rule**, who was killed in a mine near **Central City, Colo.**, by a cave in, arrived in this city this morning. The funeral services will take place Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock in the Central M.E. [Methodist Episcopal] Church.

*The Daily Tribune*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Third Year, Whole No. 632 [Monday, July 25, 1898], page 3, column 6

### KILLED IN A MINE.

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#### News Received of the Death of John Oliver in British Columbia..

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**Mrs. John Oliver**, of 514 East B street, received a telegram Saturday night from **Nelson, British Columbia**, stating that her husband had been killed in a mine accident at that place. No particulars were given. A telegram was immediately sent directing that his body be shipped here at once and it is expected to arrive Friday or Saturday.

**John Oliver** was 43 years of age and was well known in this city. His last work here was at the **Pewabic mine**, which he left the latter part of April to go West. He formerly sang in the Central M.E. Church choir and was religiously inclined. Deceased was a member of the United Workmen of America and carried a life insurance policy of \$2,000 in that order.

He leaves a wife and grown son, **Frederick Oliver**, who is employed at the **Concentrating works**.