

# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY -- BREEN TOWNSHIP -- FOSTER CITY NEWS COLUMNS

[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]

*The Menominee Range*, Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, Volume XI, Number 3 [Thursday, April 11, 1889], page 1, column 4

THE contest in **Breen township** each year is between the two voting precincts – **Foster City** and **Waucedah** – and it is claimed by the Waucedah people that the Foster City party are [*sic – is*] victorious through ways that are dark and tricks that are vain. What the Foster City party have [*sic – has*] to say about their Waucedah opponents we don't know. Possibly as they are victorious they let the Waucedah people do all the talking. We wonder that the voters of Breen township do not favor some project of division or annexation that would make things more convenient all round. The township, though small in population[,] is certainly large enough in territory to make two, or Waucedah might be annexed to Norway or Spalding. But neither of these propositions are [*sic – is*] likely to meet with favor we think, so Breen township voters will have to continue to fight it out on the same lines.

**NOTE: Beginning in 1904 the Iron Mountain Press began running columns from the various settlements in and around Dickinson County, Michigan. There is a great amount of detailed information contained in these columns on smaller settlements which is of great interest to historians and genealogists.**

## 1904

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 8, Number 43 [Thursday, March 17, 1904], page 3, column 4

### LOGGING LACONICS.

**R.W. Pierce**, of **Foster City**, the manager of the mill plant of the **Morgan Lumber company**, states that both the saw-mill and shingle-mill will begin operations this week. They have been waiting for the breaking up of the company camps to get the men for the mills, and the men in their employ will be all down by Sunday as the camps break up this week for the season. The company has banked about 7,000,000 feet of logs.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 13 [Thursday, August 18, 1904], page 5, column 5

### LOGGING LACONICS.

#### Extensive Operations.

The **Morgan Lumber & Cedar company**, operating the **large mill at Foster City**, is preparing for a busy campaign in the woods in the northern part of the country. The company will operate three camps and will also let contracts to three jobbers. The input for the winter is estimated at 7,000,000 feet and will embrace pine, hemlock, hardwood and cedar. Several hundred men will be employed.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 29 [Thursday, December 8, 1904], page 1, column 3

### BEST WOLF STORY.

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## Pack of Three Hundred Said to Have Been Seen Near Foster City.

The wolves are said to be very thick this winter in the northern peninsula and hunters are out after the bounties offered by the state for their extermination.

According to the Menominee Herald-Leader, there is an especially large number of them up near the **Holmes farm** near **Foster City**, one pack having been seen with fully 300 in it.

Two large ones were killed there recently, one of which measured fully eight feet from the end of its nose to the tip of its tail.

During the fall the farmers had a very hard time of it keeping the wolves away from their sheep and a large number of valuable sheep have been killed and eaten by them.

At present they are running the deer in the woods near Foster City and it is said that the yelp of the animals is heard at all times during the day and night.

*Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 31 [Thursday, December 22, 1904], page 1, column 2*

## STABBING AFFRAY IN BREEN.

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### Axel Jacobson, the Victim, is Very Low and May Die.

**Joseph Pallar**, a resident of the township of Breen[,] is in the county jail and the chances are strong that, when arraigned in court, he will be confronted with the charge of murder.

The victim of the imprisoned man is **Axel Jacobson**, who, at this writing, is considered to have about half a chance in a thousand of recovering.

**The instrument employed in committing the crime was a large hunting knife and a jug of poor whisky was the starting point.**

Pallar and Jacobson are **Finlanders**. With their families, they live on a farm a short distance from **Foster City**, occupying the same house. The Pallar family occupy [*sic - occupies*] the down-stairs [*sic - downstairs*] apartments and the Jacobsons live up-stairs [*sic - upstairs*].

The cutting affray occurred last Saturday night. Pallar was entertaining a number of friends. The jug of whisky was the center of attraction. The guests imbibed freely and became noisy. Jacobson objected to the boisterousness. He invited the guests to leave, and, we understand, threatened to enforce his commands.

Jacobson had a rifle in his hands at the time. Pallar objected to Jacobson's interference and intrusion. Pallar attempted to reject [*sic - eject*] Jacobson from the apartments. Jacobson made no attempt to use the gun. When attacked by Pallar, he used the gun to keep the latter from catching hold of him, holding it in a horizontal position.

Pallar succeeded in clinching Jacobson, however, and the two men fell to the floor. Jacobson, who is a large, powerful man, much the stronger of the two, landed on top of Pallar.

While in this position, Pallar used the knife. Jacobson was stabbed in the abdomen. The knife, a long, slender one, was used but once. Several of the intestines were severed. At this writing, Jacobson is very low and cannot recover. The wound was dressed by **Drs. Dockery and Moll**.

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Pallar was arrested by **Orrin C. Morse**, deputy sheriff, and was brought to the county jail last Tuesday.

Yesterday, **Prosecuting Attorney Cook** and **Sheriff Cudlip** visited the scene of the crime, secured the statement of Jacobson and others present, and the facts are as recorded above.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 32 [Thursday, December 29, 1904], page 1, column 6

## Still Living.

**Axel Jacobson**, who was stabbed in an affray near Foster City, as noted in the last issue of *The Press*, was still alive according to the latest information. He is very low, however, and the doctors give but little hopes of his recovery.

**1905**  
**1906**  
**1907**  
**1908**  
**1909**  
**1910**

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 44 [Thursday, March 24, 1910], page 1, column 2

## Big Crop of Oats.

R.W. Pierce, Jr., superintendent for the Morgan Lumber & Cedar company at

Foster City, in speaking of the company's farming operations at that place, stated that last season a yield of 3,240 bushels of oats was harvested from 52 acres, making an average of nearly 63 bushels to the acre. This is the largest average that has been reported from any portion of Dickinson county and is undoubtedly a record for the peninsula.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 14, Number 44 [Thursday, March 24, 1910], page 1, column 2

## Will Raise Cattle.

It is the intention of the Morgan Lumber & Cedar company to engage in the cattle business on quite an extensive scale in Breen township. Supt. Pierce is inclined to favor Holsteins. The company already has a fine herd of pure stock and will add to the number gradually. In the near future the company will build a creamery at Foster City.

**1911**  
**1912**

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 9 [Thursday, July 18, 1912], page 4, column 3

## ENGINEER IS KILLED

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ENGINE IN THE SAW-MILL AT  
FOS-  
TER CITY GOES TO PIECES.

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# DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY -- BREEN TOWNSHIP -- FOSTER CITY NEWS COLUMNS

*[Compiled and Transcribed by William John Cummings]*

## **Claud Bishop, the Engineer, Buried in Ruins, Lived But a Few Moments; Others Escape.**

Last Friday morning, **Claud Bishop**, the **engineer of the saw-mill [sic – sawmill] of the Morgan Lumber & Cedar Co.**, lost his life when the engine broke, and **Chas. Terrien**, fireman, and **P.J. Milligan** and **Olof Olson**, who were in the engine-room [sic – engine room] at the time, narrowly escaped with their lives, unhurt. The same morning the engineer noticed that the engine did not work properly and on investigation discovered a crack in the engine-bed [sic – engine bed] beneath the journal of the crank shaft. It was while the engineer was showing the crack with a lighted candle to the others present in the room that the key in the journal above the crack came out. He pushed it back, but it came out again, and the eccentric rod struck the key, throwing the eccentric rod loose from [the] opposite end, causing the engine-bed [sic – engine bed] to give way with a loud crash. Those present sprang to safety through the door to the boiler-room [sic – boiler room] and through the window to the underpart [sic – under part] of the mill. The engineer sprang to the throttle wheel, to shut off the engine, when the fly wheel broke in several pieces striking the walls of the engine-room [sic – engine room] and burying Bishop under a mass of brick and pieces of iron. The fireman jumped for the top of the boilers to shut off [sic – off] the steam in the pipe leading to the engine. Olof Olson was the first to return through the window, from which he had jumped, and found Bishop lying by the engine beneath the throttle covered with a mass of brick and splinters. Olson carried him out and others helped him to remove

him to the office of **Dr. Moll**, where he expired about twenty minutes later without regaining consciousness. Funeral services were conducted last Monday by **Rev. A.K. Scott**, of the **Baptist church of Iron Mountain**, and interment was at the Breen township cemetery at Foster City. The **Modern Woodmen**, of which he was a member, marched to the cemetery. The funeral was the largest ever seen in Breen township. Mr. Bishop was a popular young man, aged thirty-four years, and was everybody's friends [sic – friend]. He is survived by a wife and six children.

**Albert Pierce** and **Kenneth LaPine** drove to **Iron Mountain** last Sunday in Mr. LaPine's auto to meet their fathers. When near **Randville** the auto turned turtle [rolled over onto its top] over a steep embankment, with Kenneth LaPine at the wheel, and plunged about ten feet down the bluff among large and rugged boulders. Albert Pierce was thrown forward out of the car, about twenty feet, when he recovered unhurt, he went to the machine and found Kenneth LaPine under the driver's seat and helped him out, also unhurt. As luck would have it, the car turned over on the rocks at such a place that Kenneth LaPine was in a depression between the rocks, which prevented the car from resting on him. The young men were very badly frightened over their experience, as was [sic – were] also their fathers when they came from Iron Mountain in another car and saw what a narrow escape their boys had. The car was badly damaged and was towed to Iron Mountain for repairs after it had been raised up the bluff with block and tackle.

**R.W. Pierce** and **Jos. LaPine**, accompanied by **J.M. Baker**, of the Morgan Co., Oshkosh, visited in Gladstone and other points last Saturday and Sunday to purchase a **new engine for the mill**.

**Harry Young** returned to Foster City last Tuesday from Escanaba to finish

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shipping out the maple lumber to the **I. Stephenson Co.** at Wells.

**Mr. and Mrs. Victor Ottowell** of Withrow, Minn., visited this week with Mrs Ottowell's sister, **Mrs. John Korten**.

**Wm. F. Paul** returned last Tuesday from Oshkosh, where he spent the Fourth with his family.

**Arthur Stiles** returned from Oconto and other points, where he spent the Fourth vacation.

1912

1914

1915

1916

1917

1918

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 45 [Thursday, March 28, 1918], page 1, column 6

## Successful Season.

**R.W. Pierce**, vice-president and general manager of the **Morgan Lumber & Cedar company**, who was down from **Foster City** last Tuesday in attendance at a meeting of the county board, tells *The Press* that the past winter was a very successful one for logging operations. During the season his company cut about 7,000,000 feet of mixed timber, which, with 1,000,000 feet left over from last season, is sufficient to keep the saw-mill [*sic* – *sawmill*] in operation during the summer. The mill machinery is now

being overhauled and it is expected to start the saws in motion next Tuesday.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 47 [Thursday, April 11, 1918], page 1, column 4

## Youngest Knitter.

**Hazel Olson**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Freden Olson**, of **Foster City**, is **Dickinson county's youngest Red Cross knitter**. Miss Hazel, who is only five years old, knitted a scarf of regulation size. It took her eight weeks. The work would be a credit to any person.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 48 [Thursday, April 18, 1918], page 6, columns 2-3

## VULCAN NEWS.

The **Polish Star society** gave a **patriotic dancing party** last Saturday night at the **town hall** for the benefit of the **Polish army in France**. The **Bouchard sisters** from **Foster City** furnished very acceptable music, and the party was a great financial success.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 49 [Thursday, April 25, 1918], page 5, column 3

## FOSTER CITY NUGGETS

**Joseph Lapine** visited his family at Oshkosh this week.

**Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Asp** left last week for Minneapolis, where they will reside permanently.

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Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson visited in Escanaba this week and while there purchased a new Kissel car.

Olaf Olson returned this week from Green Bay, where he accompanied his wife, who is receiving medical treatment at St. Vincent Hospital.

The Misses Albens, Clara and Laura Bushard [sic – Bouchard][,] have returned after filling a week's engagement in different parts of the peninsula furnishing music for social functions.

Mr. and Mrs. August Creal have sold their farm to a Mr. Lasalle. Mr. and Mrs. Creal will reside in the village and will occupy the house recently vacated by Charles Terrian.

The boys' farm labor reserve, composed of high school and grammar grade pupils of Oshkosh, Wis., are employed by the Morgan Lumber and Cedar Co. There are eight in number.

Despite the fact that our country is at war, there prevails an air [of] prosperity in our town. The mill is in operation with a full force, the farmers are busy with their work, and our citizens are doing their utmost in different ways, thus promoting the interests of our town and rendering all the assistance possible to our country, proving that Breen township is 100 per cent patriotic.

The service flag for Breen township contains twenty-five stars and represents the names of the young men from our township who are serving their country in the present war. The names follow: Fritz Asp, Ira Farrell, Eddie Peronto, Archie Peronto, Edward Barcome, Hjalmer Peterson, Truman Farrell, Leslie Farrell, John Anderson, Joe Bebeau, Martin Almli, Clarence LaLonde, Arthur Laessig, Harry LaLonde, Edward Grenmark, Paul Gauthier, Fred Englequist, G.M. Rizzardi, Lloyd Ketchum, Stewart Blackhall, David

Phalen, Dick Phalen, Charles Farrell, Kenneth LaPine and John E. Johnson.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 49 [Thursday, April 25, 1918], page 8, column 2

## Champion Chickens.

Several weeks ago The Press contained an item noting that a local flock of twenty-four hens had laid 285 eggs in March. Now comes C.A. Hansen, of Foster City, a subscriber, who affirms that he has a flock of twenty-three Plymouth Rock chickens that laid 436 eggs during the same month. The Press opines that Mr. Hansen's flock of chickens are clearly entitled to the championship.

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 22, Number 50 [Thursday, May 2, 1918], page 5, column 3

## QUINNESEC NEWS NOTES

An article in The Press of last week states that twenty-three Plymouth Rock chickens owned by C.A. Hansen, of Foster City, had laid 436 eggs during March, and "The Press opines that Mr. Hansen's flock of chickens is clearly entitled to the championship." Figuring out the possible number of eggs this flock of 23 Plymouth Rocks could lay during the 31 days of March, it would make a total of 713 eggs, or a percentage of 61. Now comes William Dickson, of Quinnesec, who relates that he is the owner of ten "just chickens" – no pedigreed stock – that laid during the first 28 days of April a total of 221 eggs out of a possible 280, or a

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percentage of 79. Will somebody beat Mr. Dickson's flock of "just chickens?"

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 3 [Thursday, June 6, 1918], page 7, columns 2-3

## Foster City Patriotic.

Under the supervision of **Mrs. R.W. Pierce** and **J.A. Swanson**, the interior of the opera house at Forster City has been newly furnished, and elaborate decorations of a patriotic nature adorn the walls, which have been newly calcimed [*sic - calcimined*] and presents a most pleasing [*sic*]. The lower portion of the house, comprising three rooms, has also been newly furnished and decorated in national and Red Cross colors. **Last Saturday evening marked the opening of the social season in this enterprising village with a grand ball, which was largely attended.** The proceeds, which amounted to \$80, were kindly donated to the **Junior Red Cross**. Much credit is due Mrs. Pierce, Mr. Swanson and the town people in general for making the function a grand success and establishing a social center where old and young may have an opportunity of participating in the recreation and amusement offered by the management. **The aims and purpose of the management are purely patriotic and deserving of liberal patronage, as all the proceeds will be donated to the Junior Red Cross.**

*Iron Mountain Press*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 10 [Thursday, July 25, 1918], page 1, column 2

## Long Auto Trip.

**Charles W. Pocan**, formerly of **Foster City**, is now located at Portland, where he expects to make his home. Mr. and Mrs. Pocan and children – **Tom, Charles, Donald, Florence, Dorothy, Christina** and the **baby** – **made the trip from Foster City to the Pacific coast in their automobile.** A good supply of cooked victuals were [*sic - was*] taken along. A tent outfit was strapped on the side of the car and every night they pitched camp, not going to a hotel even once during the whole trip. They took the Yellowstone trail, and encountered heavy mud in the gumbo regions of Minnesota, and often had to stop to remove the mud from the wheels before they could proceed further. There are many tourists on the road between the east and west, and all report the auto travel a satisfactory means of making the trip. They escaped a single mishap – not a tire puncture even – and enjoyed the trip immensely.

**1919**

**1920**

**1921**

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 1, Number 30 [Saturday, May 14, 1921], page 1, column 6

## FOSTER CITY BOY KILLED BY TRUCK

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FOSTER CITY, May 14 – **Clarence Olson**, twelve-year-old boy of Foster City, was instantly killed yesterday afternoon, by a heavy truck belonging to the **Morgan Lumber and Cedar company** of that place. According to reports, the lad hopped

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a ride on the truck, and while getting on or off the vehicle, fell in under the wheels and was killed. The driver apparently did not see the boy until after the accident. The parents of the lad live at Foster City, and the boy attended school there. No further details of the accident were to be had last night.

**1922**  
**1923**

*The Iron Mountain Daily News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 3, Number 137 [Thursday, September 20, 1923], page 2, column 4

## SHERIFF DESTROYS MOONSHINE STILLS

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**Cleveland and Deputy  
Visit Foster City  
Territory**

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Two moonshine stills, each of great capacity, were destroyed yesterday by Sheriff Frank Cleveland and Deputy Louis Youhassey, who discovered the devices on farms located near Foster City.

The first still was found on the farm of **John McMahon**, who gave the officials permission to search the premises. It was destroyed and McMahon, according to the authorities, promised that no more stills would be found on his place.

As the result of complaints from residents of Foster City, the officials also visited the home of **Mrs. Ernest Steuben**, whose husband was arrested some time

ago and is now employed in another city. The complaints allege that Mrs. Steuben and her two children were making and distributing moonshine. A large still was uncovered in the woods some distance from the Steuben home, the authorities being led to the spot by one of the children. Part of the still was saved and the rest burned. The officials also destroyed a half barrel of mash which was in a room in the Steuben home.

**1924**  
**1925**

*The Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 5, Number 214 [Monday, December 21, 1925], page 8, column 1

## LARGEST MAN IN PENINSULA DIES AT FOSTER CITY

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**Ernest Struebing Suc-  
cumbs; Weight Was  
570 Pounds**

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**Ernest G. Struebing**, aged 56 years, weighing 570 pounds and declared to have been the biggest man in the upper peninsula of Michigan if not in the state, has passed away at his home in Foster City, following an illness of about a year. Complications resulting from his excessive weight are said to have caused his death.

Death occurred at Struebing's farm home. The casket which will bear him to his grave tomorrow is seven feet in length,

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38 inches wide and 34 inches high and will be borne by eight pallbearers.

Streubing was born in Germany, October 22, 1869. He came to America 35 years ago and has lived in Foster City for 30 years. For the past several years he conducted a farm in that community and recently installed an oil station in front of his home. He was also employed by the **von Platen Fox Lumber company** some time ago as a camp foreman, and worked for a time for the **Morgan Lumber and Cedar company**.

The deceased is survived by his widow and 10 children. They are **Fred, Ernest and William**, of **Iron Mountain**; **Ruth, Lester, Clarence and Robert**, of **Foster City**; **Mrs. H. Knutson**, of Sturgeon Bay, Wis., and **Mrs. Arthur Plant**, of **Iron Mountain**.

The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock from the farm home the **Rev. John Eckstrom** officiating.

## 1945

*Iron Mountain News*, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, \_\_\_\_\_  
Year, Number \_\_\_\_\_ [Tuesday, August 14, 1945], page 2, column 3

### Horse Brings Aid To Man Hurt In Woods

**William Peronto, Foster City logger**, credits the faithful intelligence of a horse to the fact that he is safe at home, although suffering from a badly-dislocated knee, as the result of a freak-accident occurring while he was at work in the woods near his residence, in Breen township.

Peronto was skidding lots, and driving his horse along a narrow trail, when the

logging-gear brushed against a sapling, bending it far over as the horse moved along. Snapping back, the sapling caught Peronto full in the leg, dislocating his knee.

Alone; several miles from home; unable to walk and in great pain, Peronto loosened the skid-chains and ordered the horse off home. The animal hesitated a moment; the moved off in the direction of the Peronto farm. Once on the way, he went straight to his destination. Halted at the farm-yard by a stout gate, the horse brushed against it; shattered the latch and went on in.

**Louis Siegler, Jr.**, a neighbor, saw the horse trotting along the road, dragging the chains behind him. Failing to find Peronto at home, he inquired at the nearby farm of Robert Charlebois. Believing that something had happened to Peronto, Siegler and Charlebois set out at once for the site of the latter's job.

### Found Injured Man

There they found the injured man, suffering intense pain and unable to move. Peronto was taken out of the woods, on a stretcher, to a nearby road where **Joseph Petrovich**, also of Foster City, was waiting with his truck to bring the man to General hospital. He was later removed to his home.

Because the treatment of the injury was delayed while he lay in the woods, waiting for his horse to bring the message to his neighbors, Peronto will be confined to his home for some time.

Meanwhile, the faithful animal who made the trip, alone, back to his home-stable, is getting extra rations of the best oats that Peronto can obtain. He was also enjoying a holiday today, in the combined observance of the end of war, and the gratitude of his master for bringing help.