

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

NORTH DICKINSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

North Dickinson School District

In December, 1965, the North Dickinson School District was formed by combining the Channing School District and the Felch School District. In January, 1966, a new board of education was elected composed of Elmer Carlson, Clarence Roell, Vernon Anderson, James Jauquet, Donna Cootware, Charles Carey and Melvin Cousineau.

In June, 1966, the people in the newly-formed district voted to build a new K-12 school. Actual construction began in 1970. The bonds were for \$1,600,000.

North Dickinson School

**Erected in 1970-1971 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: 1971-**

**Road
Felch Township**

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – The Felch and Channing School Districts consolidated in 1966 into the North Dickinson School District. Construction of a new K-12 school building to house all students in the district started in 1970 and the new school was opened for the 1971-1972 school year.

BREEN TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Alfred School

**Erected in 1904 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: 1904-**

**Road
Alfred
West Branch Township**

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 238

On July 9, 1904, it was decided that a school would be built in Alfred. The board wasted no time getting this project started. At the August 1st meeting they rejected a bid of \$850 from a contractor in Escanaba because it was too high. Mr. Swan J. Peterson was appointed to make all arrangements so that the project could get underway. He made a trip to Escanaba to find a contractor or to engage a carpenter. One month later, on the August 10th meeting, s.J. Peterson reported that he had found a contractor to (1) build the Alfred school for \$749 and furnish materials or (2) do the carpentry work and have the Board furnish materials.

At the September 30th meeting of the Board, a letter from Mr. John Vedebrand informed the members that the Alfred school building was completed at the cost of \$700! It was inspected and the furniture (at a cost of \$133.12) and the supplies (at a cost of \$48.55) were ordered from the A. Flanagan Co.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 10 [Thursday, July 25, 1918],
page 5, column 3

FELCH NEWS NOTES

A special meeting of the school board was held Monday evening for the purpose of hiring additional teachers as follows: Miss Bertha Forsman was hired to teach at the Sturgeon River school for an eight-month term; Miss Lillian Anderson, of Hardwood, was hired to teach at the Groveland school; Miss Agnes Morrow, of Champion, was hired for the Princeton school. A principal for the Felch school has, as yet, not been hired, but expect to do so very soon as the secretary is now corresponding with the Lewis Teacher's [sic] agency, of Muskegon, with a view of getting a capable party to accept the position.

A petition has been circulated for the building of a school at Graysville, better known as Ader & Gray's farm. A very suitable location has been chosen and as soon as a contract is made with J.M. Longyear, who has possession of the ground where [the] building is proposed to be built, bids will be advertised for erection of [the] building. There are several families in this new locality and the future promises a bigger settlement, as the farming land in this district looks very promising.

J.V. Sundstrom, Alfred Anderson and Olaf Rian of the Felch township school board made an inspection of the schools throughout the township on Wednesday in order that necessary repairs may be made before the school year.

Blomquist Location School

Erected in 1921 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held:

Road Breen Township

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 241

The building of schools continued again on April 21, 1921 when a special meeting was held to bond \$3,500 for a new school at the Bloomquist Location. The lowest bid was \$1,789.31.

Calumet Mine School

Erected in 1906 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: 1906-

Road Calumet Mine

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 239

This worked out well, but within just a few months of the solving of this problem for space, a petition was presented to the board on March 27, 1906, for a school to be built in Calumet Mine. S.J. Peterson again was appointed to go to Escanaba and secure plans and specifications for the same kind of school building as in Alfred. At \$800, the bid of Olin & Son was the lowest. However, in this case the contractor was to furnish the material for building the school and sheds, and the work was to be completed by Sept. 15, 1906.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Foster City Facts.

Foster City School

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Foster City

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 238

On November 29, 1905, the board noted the crowded conditions at the Foster City School. It was decided to use a room at the Town Hall, provide seating and furnishings for the primary grades and engage a teacher at \$40.00 per month.



This unused postcard view, dating to about 1910 and taken by E.R. Burkhardt, shows the Breen Township Hall, where primary grade students attended school beginning at the end of November, 1905.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 49 [Thursday, April 27, 1905], page 5, column 5

Average standings of pupils, in winter term examination of the Foster City schools: Seventh Grade – Albert Pierce, 96; Lillian Pocoan, 88. Fourth grade – Lizzie Nault, 90; Annie Johnson, 89; Mary Bunting, 88; Julia Laessig, 88; Fred Nault, 88; Arthur Laessig, 87. Third Grade – Marie Pegg, 92; Harvey Leeman, 92; Victor Hanson, 91; Ernest Ranger, 86; Mable Doran, 85; Thomas Pocan, 80. Second Grade – Agnes Skogman, 85. First Grade – Johnnie Laessig, 100; Christina Pocan, 100; Jennie Laessig, 100; Douglas Bishop, 100; Lawrence Peshek, 95; Andrew Wilson, 95; Rosabel Pocan, 92; Lyman Peshek, 90; Irene Ahlberg[,], 90. those who have been neither absent nor tardy during the past month are: Albert Pierce, Alice Ranger, Mary Bunting, Irene Ahlberg, Douglas Bishop, Andrew Wilson, Galmer Johnson, Emma Streubing, Mable Doran.

V.M. Marriner, Teacher.

Longfellow School



Postmarked Hardwood, Mich., June 17, 1911, and taken by E.R. Burkhardt, this 1910-view of the new high school, the Longfellow School, was called the Breen Township School in the Iron Mountain Press when the structure was under construction in June of 1910. John Lindsay, of Escanaba, had the contract for erecting this school. The cement basement was made by Mr.

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Sorby, of Escanaba. A stone wall was built along the south side of the school grounds.



**Longfellow School,
postcard view postmarked 1913**



St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the Longfellow School, postcard view, ca. 1918-1930



These remnants of the stairway leading to the Longfellow School were all that was left of the structure when this photograph was taken April 2, 2012.

Erected in 1910 – Razed in _____

Years Classes Held:

**Road
Foster City**

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 239

A special meeting was called for May 26, 1909, to discuss the question of a new school at Foster City. Swan J. Peterson and Dr. Gustav W. Moll were selected to consult with a prosecuting attorney or secure legal aid for an election to issue bonds for a new school. They were also to consult an architect and process plans for a four room school.

At a special meeting on June 12, 1909, the board accepted the proposition by Cook and Pelham, as made to S.J. Peterson, concerning the new school for Foster City.

Contents of the agreement read: "That you issue bonds for \$4,000 bearing 6% interests payable in five years in annual installments of \$800. That you take over the bonds at par and in return, therefore, pay us, cook and Pelham, \$4000 in cash, and we do the legal work necessary in the issue of the bonds, holding election, and other legal work necessary in this connection without further remuneration."

G.W. Moll and S.J. Peterson and R.W. Pierce were appointed to act as a committee to work out plans and specifications, with power to act. Final arrangements were accepted by the board on June 24, 1909.

An election was held July 12, 1909 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Results were as follows: In favor of bonding the district – 17; opposed to the bonding issue – None.

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On September 27, 1909, there was an additional sum of \$3000 needed to complete building and equipping the new school at Foster City.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 4 [Thursday, June 16, 1910], page 6, columns 1-2

FOSTER CITY FACTS.

C.V. Whitehead, the teacher of the grammar school, will depart Wednesday for his home at Cleveland, Ohio.

...

John Lindsay, of Escanaba, who has the contract of erecting the Breen Township school at Foster City came up last Monday with a crew of carpenters to work on the building. The cement basement, which was made by Mr. Sorby, of Escanaba, is completed. A stone wall will be built along the south side of the school grounds.

Hardwood School

Erected in 1916 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Hardwood

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 241

Less than two years later, another school was needed, this time at Hardwood. March 15, 1916, Cook & Pelham were

contacted for the issuance of bonds for \$4,000. G.A. Gustafson was again lowest bidder, at \$4,335. A special school board meeting was called on July 12, 1916 to vote on selection and designation of a new school site at Hardwood. The result was selection of the A.P. Farrell school site.

The old Hardwood school was sold to the P.J. Anderson estate for \$350 -- \$50 down and \$15 quarterly at 6% interest.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19, Number 39 [Thursday, February 11, 1915], page 4, column 4

Hardwood School Notes.

Our teacher, Miss Chambers, has organized a school club called the "Excelsior club." The meetings will take place as follows: Business meeting of members, every two weeks and a social night, open to the public, every four weeks. The latter meeting will always take place in the evening. The first social meeting will be held at the Reasik Hotel on Saturday evening, March 6th. Refreshments will be served and a program rendered by the club members during the evening. Both teacher and pupils extend a most cordial invitation to all who may care to attend. Proceeds of the social evenings will be used for the purchase of new library books. Success to the club is our sincere wish.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19, Number 51 [Thursday, May 6, 1915], page 1, column 2

New Schools.

In Breen township, the board of education has decided to build a new

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school-house [*sic* – *schoolhouse*] at Hardwood. As planned, it will be erected along the same lines as the new building at Hylas, a modern country school, costing about \$2,000. It is also learned that the Felch board of education has decided to erect an addition to the school-house [*sic* – *schoolhouse*] at Metropolitan.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 1 [Thursday, May 20, 1915], page 1, column 4

School Contract.

Fred E. Parmelee, while in Foster City last Monday, was awarded the contract to furnish the plans for the new school building at Hardwood, subject to the approval of the state superintendent of public instruction. Mr. Parmelee will also superintend the erection. The new building will contain all the newest fixins' [*sic*] in school furnishings and the cost will be in the neighborhood of \$5,000. Norway township has let the contract for the erection of a small school-house [*sic* – *schoolhouse*] near the Jackson farm.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 1 [Thursday, May 20, 1915], page 8, column 3

Build New School.

At a special election held in Breen township last Monday, the voters sanctioned the issuance of \$4,000 worth of bonds by the school board. The bonds are eight in number and will draw interest at the rate of six per cent per annum payable semi-annually. The first bond becomes due in July, 1917, and the eighth in July, 1924.

The \$4,000 so voted will be employed in the erection of a two [*sic*] four-room school-house [*sic* – *schoolhouse*] at Hardwood. The building will be strictly up-to-date and will be erected in accordance with plans approved by the state superintendent of public instruction.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 6 [Thursday, June 24, 1915], page 1, column 6

TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

Breen, Felch and Sagola to Expend Goodly Sums in Erections.

The contract for the erection of the new school building at Hardwood, in Breen township, was awarded last Monday to G.A. Gustafson. The successful tender was \$4,335. The contract for the heating plant is not included in the bid and the total cost of the building will be over \$5,000. The building will be erected under the supervision of Fred E. Parmelee, the local architect. Mr. Parmelee's plans were highly complimented by the state department of public instruction. Mr. Parmelee is now preparing the plans for an addition and extensive improvements in the school building at Metropolitan, in Felch township. The cost of the addition and improvements will exceed \$4,000. Tenders for the work are invited in another column. In Sagola township, the board of education has engaged Mr. Parmelee to prepare plans for a large addition to the school building in Channing, the railroad town having outgrown the present accommodations. The cost of the improvement will exceed \$4,000. It is expected to have all the

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buildings completed in time for the opening of the fall term of school.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 25 [Thursday, November 4, 1915], page 5, columns 5-6

Hardwood Notes.

The dance given by the members of the Excelsior Club at Kinney's Hall last Saturday evening was one of the most successful social events of the summer and fall season. The hall was artistically decorated with black and yellow, in accordance with Hallow'een [sic – Halloween]. Jack o'lanterns, black cats and witches, made by the club members, adorned the ceiling and side walls. The dancing began promptly at 9 o'clock and continuing until 11:30, when a delicious luncheon was served. Dancing was then resumed until 1:30. The unexpected "Home, Sweet Home," just then was not a welcome number. Judging from the pleasant atmosphere that reigned throughout the entire evening it was evident that all were enjoying an exceptionally good time. The youthful committee members are to be congratulated upon the management and success of their Hallow'een [sic – Halloween] party. The proceeds amounted to \$26.

Hylas School

Erected in 1914 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held:

State Road
Hylas

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe,

Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 239

The need for schools was frequent, and five years later a new school was needed at Hylas. On July 22, 1914, plans were accepted to borrow \$3,500. July 29, 1914, two acres for the new Hylas school were purchased from Martin and Coonan. The contract was awarded to Mr. G.A. Gustafson of Norway who had the lowest bid.

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 241

Dec. 19, 1914 the old Hylas school grounds were sold to George Peronto for \$350 -- \$25 down and \$15 quarterly with interest at 6%.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19, Number 8 [Thursday, July 9, 1914], page 1, column 4

New School-House.

At a recent meeting of the board of education of Breen township it was decided to build a new school building at Hylas. Architect Parmelee, of this city, has been engaged to furnish the plans. The building will contain two rooms and will be of a neat design. In order to secure the money it was decided to bond the school district in the sum of \$3,500. The election will be held on the same day as the regular school election – July 13th. The bonds will be of \$500

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each and the first one is payable on July 15th, 1915, and one each year following until the debt is extinguished.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19, Number 10 [Thursday, July 23, 1914], page 2, column 6

Secretary, School District
No. 3 of Breen Township

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 21, Number 1 [Thursday, May 18, 1916], page 5, column 4

BIDS WANTED.

For Construction of Frame School-House at Hylas, Michigan.

Sealed bids will be received by the Secretary of the Board of Education, up to 12 o'clock, noon (standard time) on Monday the 27th day of July, A.D. 1914, for the erection and completion of one frame school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] to be built at Hylas, Mich., in accordance with plans and specifications therefor [*sic – therefore*], prepared by F.E. Parmelee, architect, and now on file in the office of said architect and secretary of said board.

Bids shall be addressed to Dr. G.W. Moll, Secretary of the Board of Education, Foster City, Mich., and endorsed "Bids for Hylas School."

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check for \$200.00 payable to said secretary. All checks will be retained after the opening of the bids, except in case of accepted bid, if any, and this will be retained until the contracts have been duly executed and bonds approved of.

Satisfactory bonds will be required to be given by the contractor to said board, in the sum of not less than the full amount of the contract price.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

Dated July 12th, 1914.

Dr. G.W. Moll,

Hardwood Notes.

One of the most successful events of the year, both socially and financially, took place last Saturday in the Kinney Hall at Hylas. The event was a basket social given by the members of the Excelsior club, assisted by Miss Chambers, for the purpose of making payment on the school piano purchased last October. Forty-four baskets were raffled for \$77 and ice cream was sold to the amount of \$8, the net proceeds amounting to \$64.00 [*sic – \$84.00*]. The piano is now entirely paid for and we wish to thank, not only the people of our own community for their kind assistance, but also the people of Hylas and Foster City.

Pershing School



Now the Hardwood Community Recreation Center, the Pershing School was probably built in about 1916. Barely visible behind the sign over the front doors are the words "PUBLIC SCHOOL" embossed in cement. This photograph was taken April 2, 2012.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

**Hardwood
Breen Township**

[Was the Breen Township Community Hall
in 1978.]

FELCH TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

School District No. 3

*Felch Township, Michigan Centennial:
1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist,
1978, page 92

In May, 1891 there was a meeting of a board of School Inspectors and the report read: "On a motion made and seconded a school district to be known as School District No. 3 of the township of Felch was formed to be made up of the following described lands: Sections 4, 5, and 6 of township 42-30, and Sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 of township 43-R 30."

Prior to 1927 students had to go elsewhere for a high school education and diploma. This group, pictured in 1919, is waiting for the train at Randville to take them to Iron Mountain. They would not return home again until December and the Christmas Holidays. [Photograph on page 104]

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

**Pair of Felch school sites
were purchased for \$250 each**

FELCH – Earliest records available from Felch Board of Education minutes show that on June 8, 1905, the board purchased two school sites at a cost of \$250 each. The site for the East School was purchased from Swan Anderson and the West School from Matt Wickman. Mineral rights were reserved on both deeds.

On April 20, 1906, the old East Metropolitan School was auctioned off to C.J. Farrell for \$332.

Members of the board of education in 1908 were Herm Gustafson, president; Alf Anderson, secretary; Jon J. Ovist, treasurer, and L. Nylund and Andrew Skog, trustees.

...

West Branch school

The Felch board, in 1909, reviewed a communication from school inspector Hugh Campbell of West Branch Township concerning a school in West Branch Township. Felch Township gave authority to West Branch Township to build a school building for the months of May and June, with expenses to be paid by West Branch Township.

On Oct. 4, 1909, there was a joint meeting of the boards of education of the Townships of Breen, Felch and West Branch. The West Branch Township Board of Education paid the sum of \$1 to the board of education of Breen Township, thereby relinquishing all claims to any school property in West Branch Township.

The board of education of the Felch Township School District paid the sum of \$675 to the board of education of West Branch Township, thereby relinquishing all claims to any money that the West Branch Township School District had against the board of education of Felch Township.

...

Records show that Mabel Massie, who taught at the old Groveland School in 1908,

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received \$50 a month for nine months. S. Rex Plowman, who taught at the Felch School in that same year, received \$70 per month for six months.

Other teachers and principals listed for the 1908-1914 period were Homer Pelkrey, Martin Bradley, Jennie Wallen, J. Irish, Richard Fitzgerald, Alfred Lawrence, Seth Howland, W.J. Vaughan, Miss Estella Bacon, John Beatlie, Floyd Fuller, Joseph Walsh, Myrtle Smith, Gerrel Groenwood, Miss Bryant, Emma Paulsin, Sheldon Baker, Harry Johnson, W.J. Stratton, Lillian Rian, Phillip Buchholz, Harry Johnson [sic], Miss Pearl White, Robert Sage, Olga Johnson, Ida H. Johnson, Ida Holmes, Miss Eva Mongrain, Elsie Palmquist, Miss Lorraine Barnaby, and F.A. Wiers.

The Felch and Channing School Districts consolidated in 1966 into the North Dickinson School District. Construction of a new K-12 school building to house all students in the district started in 1970 and the new school was opened for the 1971-1972 school year.

Ader's School

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Graysville area

Felch Township, Michigan Centennial: 1878-1978 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1978, page 91

November 16, 1918: Jack Isaacson was awarded a contract to build a backhouse at Ader's School (Graysville area) to be 12 ft. by 6 ft. and to be shiplapped inside, and will also have to be painted.

Deerhunt School

Erected in 1911-1912 – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held: 1912-

Road
Deerhunt Mine

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 23 [Thursday, October 26, 1911], page 8, column 3

FELCH NEWS.

The board of education of Felch has decided to build a new school house [sic – schoolhouse] at the Deerhunt mine and adjoining the Lehman farm. There are a number of new settlers with families already located on land there and the number of school children is large enough to entitle them to a school.

Greysville School



This is the site of the Greysville School, located just off M-69 west of Felch. This photograph was taken April 2, 2012.

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Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Graysville area

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 23, Number 10 [Thursday, July 25, 1918], page 5, column 3

FELCH NEWS NOTES

A petition has been circulated for the building of a school at Graysville, better known as Ader & Gray's farm. A very suitable location has been chosen and as soon as a contract is made with J.M. Longyear, who has possession of the ground where [the] building is proposed to be built, bids will be advertised for erection of [the] building. There are several families in this new locality and the future promises a bigger settlement, as the farming land in this district looks very promising.

Felch School

Erected in 1905 – Burned in 1911
Years Classes Held: 1905-1911

Road
Felch

[*Felch School (Washington School, teacher William Vaughn) burned down on May 10, 1911, with lightning striking Minnie Dixon and Carl Dixon, who was killed instantly*]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 51 [Thursday, May 11, 1911], page 1, columns 5-6

LIGHTNING STRIKES THE FELCH SCHOOL

One Child Instantly Killed and Two Fatally Injured.

During a terrific electrical storm yesterday afternoon the school-house [sic – schoolhouse] at Metropolitan was struck by lightning and one child was instantly killed, two fatally injured and nine others severely shocked.

Carl Dixon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dixon, aged ten years, was killed.

All wires connecting Metropolitan with the outside world were destroyed by the storm and The Press is unable to secure any information other than that noted.

LATER – Just as the forms are closing The Press has received a telegram from Former Supervisor Forell containing the information that, in addition to the killing of Carl Dixon, the following pupils were seriously injured:

Regina McDonald, Arthur Olson, Minnie Dixon, Richard Brukaradt, Blanche Kintgen, Ray Mattson, Arthur Backlund, Annie Wickman and William Smith.

The school building erected a few years ago was totally destroyed at a loss of \$4,000. It was insured for \$2,500.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 52 [Thursday, May 18, 1911], page 1, column 3

Struck Four Schools.

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School buildings were “shining marks” for the lightning to shoot at last Wednesday, four having been struck. In addition to the Felch school, where one child was instantly *[sic – instantly]* killed and half a dozen rendered unconscious and the building burned to the ground, the new building at Niagara was struck; also the school-houses *[sic – schoolhouses]* at Channing and Palatka. Not much damage was done at Niagara. At Channing the lightning damaged the roof, entered the building and ripped the plaster off a side wall. At Palatka the lightning struck the flag staff on top of the building, shattering it in pieces, another bolt struck the chimney, scattering bricks in every direction. It followed the chimney to the basement, blew open the doors of the furnace, throwing soot right and left covering everything.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 52 [Thursday, May 18, 1911], page 1, column 4

New School at Felch.

John J. Ovist, secretary of the Felch township board of education, arrived in the city last Tuesday evening and will remain until this evening. In addition to attending the meeting of school officers at the court-house *[sic – court house]*, Mr. Ovist was also investigating relative to the cost of materials for a new school building to replace the one destroyed by fire recently. The board is inclined to favor a brick or cement building to contain not less than four rooms. The attendance at the school warrants the erection of a larger building as the old one was badly overcrowded. It is also proposed to increase the number of grades taught. The district is out of debt. It is probable that the question of bonding in

the sum of \$5,000 for building purposes will be submitted to a vote of the people at an early date and a favorable decision is anticipated. The sum named, together with the insurance on the old building, would give the board a building fund of about \$7,500.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 52 [Thursday, May 18, 1911], page 5, column 3

FELCH NEWS.

The children who were hurt when the school house *[sic – schoolhouse]* was struck by lightning have nearly all fully recovered and are again able to be around. It will be a long time, however, before they will get over their fear of lightning.

The funeral of Carl Dixon, aged nine years, was held from the Swedish Aid Society Hall last Friday afternoon, Rev. K.M. Holmberg officiating. The funeral was attended by nearly every resident of the village and vicinity and the family has the sympathy of all in their sad bereavement.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – Earliest records available from Felch Board of Education minutes show that on June 8, 1905, the board purchased two school sites at a cost of \$250 each. The site for the East School was purchased from Swan Anderson and the West School from Matt Wickman. Mineral rights were reserved on both deeds.

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

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On May 11, 1911, the Felch School building was struck by lightning and burned. Just two weeks later, the Felch Township School Board borrowed \$5,000 on its negotiable bonds for the purpose of erecting and furnishing a new school building. On July 12, 1911, the contract to build a new brick school building for the sum of \$9,300 was given to G.A. Gustafson of Norway, with the contractor to furnish labor and material according to Flau [sic] specifications. F.E. Parmelee was the architect.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 1 [Thursday, May 25, 1911], page 1, column 5

Bond Election.

In Felch township, on Monday next, a special school election will be held for the purpose of voting on the question of issuing bonds in the sum of \$5,000 to be employed in the erection of a new school building at Felch to replace the one recently destroyed by fire. The school board has decided upon the erection of a four-room building and it will be of brick or concrete construction. The Felch district has no indebtedness, the needs of a larger building are appreciated by the people, and it is certain that the loan will be sanctioned [sic – sanctioned].

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 1 [Thursday, May 25, 1911], page 5, column 3

FELCH NEWS.

The school board has decided to erect a four-room building to replace the two-room

school-house [sic – schoolhouse] recently destroyed by lightning. The growth of the school population shows that in a short time the four rooms will be fully occupied.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 2 [Thursday, June 1, 1911], page 4, column 2

FELCH NEWS.

A special school election was held here last Monday for the purpose of bonding the township to raise money to erect a new building at Felch. A bond issue of \$5,000 was voted upon and carried with little opposition and Felch will now be provided with a four-room school. It will be one of the finest buildings along the Felch branch.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 8 [Thursday, July 13, 1911], page 1, column 5

School Contract.

The contract for the erection of the new school building at Felch was awarded to G.A. Gustafson, of Norway, at a meeting of the township board of education held yesterday afternoon. The contract price was \$9,300. Tenders were also received from Nelson & Bergman, of Escanaba, and F.E. King, of Norway. The tender of the Escanaba firm was \$9,432 and of King \$9,358. The new building will replace the one recently destroyed by lightning, followed by fire, in which one child was killed and several injured. It will be of brick construction and will contain four rooms. The plans were drafted by Architect Parmelee, of this city, and the school will be a model in many respects.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 15 [Thursday, August 31, 1911], page 5, column 4

FELCH NEWS.

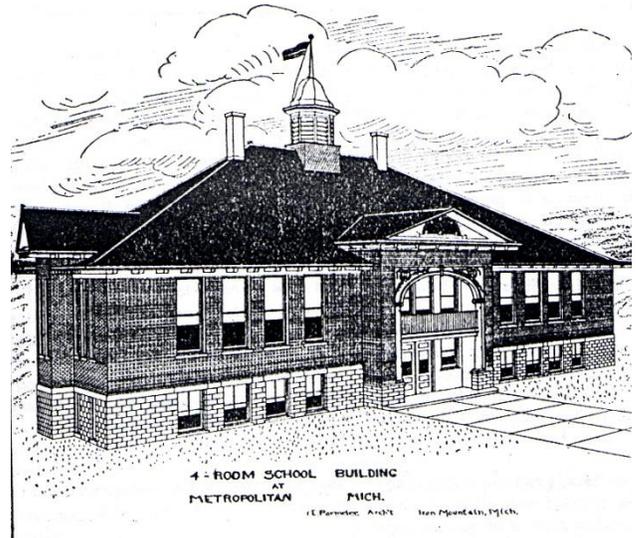
G.A. Gustafson, who has the contract for building the new school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*], has the foundation completed and masons are expected in a few days to commence laying brick. When the building is completed we will have one of the best equipped country schools in the state.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 30 [Thursday, December 14, 1911], page 8, column 5

FELCH NEWS.

A crew of finishers and painters arrived from Norway last Monday, headed by Gus Gustafson, the contractor for the new school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*]. They will rush the work as fast as possible to have the new building ready for the winter term of school, which will start Jan. 2nd.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 33 [Thursday, January 4, 1912], page 5, columns 3-4



NEW MODEL SCHOOL-HOUSE AT FELCH

Just Completed at a Cost of Ten Thousand Dollars; Opened Last Tuesday; A Credit to the Progressive People of the Town.

[Two-column Elevation of 4-Room School Building at Metropolitan, Mich., F.E. Parmelee, Archts., Iron Mountain, Mich.]

The handsome new school building at Felch is now finished and the several rooms were informally occupied by the pupils for the first time when the winter term of school opened last Tuesday.

The building, when complete, will be the finest school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] of its kind in the upper peninsula. It is a four-room structure with concrete foundations, solid brick walls, and a nine-foot basement under the entire building.

There are four school-rooms [*sic – school rooms*], a wide hall extending the

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

entire length of the building with doors leading to each room separate from the entrance through the cloak-rooms [*sic – cloakrooms*]. Each school-room [*sic – schoolroom*] has separate cloak-rooms [*sic – cloakrooms*] for the girls and the boys and each room is provided with a teacher's cloak-room [*sic – cloakroom*] and closet for articles used in the rooms.

A perfect system of ventilation has been installed, with the Smith system of heating.

Ample blackboards of natural slate, the latest improved seats for the pupils of each room, and, in fact, everything of the most modern type of school appurtenances has been provided.

The basement is fitted up as a playroom for the children to be used on cold and stormy days, one part to be used as a manual work shop [*sic – workshop*].

The high, spacious attic will be divided and one part used for a gymnasium and the other for a laboratory for simple work in chemistry and other school work and experiments.

The outside appearance of the building is very striking and pretty. The body is red pressed brick with white brick for trimmings, with white cornice and the shingles of the roof painted a deep green dipped in stain. There are two entrances to the building, the front one having a large roomy vestibule over which is a deep alcove setting off the entire structure to great advantage.

At the present time there are to be three teachers employed, as this number of instructors is deemed sufficient to take care of the number of scholars attending the school at present, but as the school population is increasing rapidly, it will be only a few years when the other room will be occupied by an additional teacher. The school board has wisely provided for this by building the four rooms.

There are ten grades taught in the school as follows: First, second and third, taught by Miss Estella Bacon; fourth, fifth and sixth, by Miss Lillian Rian, and seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth, by Wm. Vaughan.

The school board has spared no time or care in having the new building as nearly perfect as it could be built and meeting all the demands of a progressive public school spirit. It is an ornament to the village of Felch and one of which every resident can be proud. Much credit is due the board of education for their honest endeavors and hard earnest work. The board is composed of the following members: Herman Gustafson, Matt Johnson, John J. Ovist, Andrew Rian and Alfred Anderson, who is secretary of the board.

The new Felch school is a model of school architecture and reflects great credit upon F.E. Parmelee, of Iron Mountain, who planned and designed the building.

In addition to the new Felch school, a one-room school building has been erected at the Deerhunt mine location and will be ready to open school about the middle of January.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 40 [Thursday, February 22, 1912], page 5, column 4

FELCH NEWS.

A night school will be opened in the school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] the coming week for all who wish to attend. Instruction in writing, spelling, arithmetic and reading will be given. Books and newspapers will also be at the disposal of those wishing to spend an hour or two reading. The school will be free to all, open three nights in the week and under the

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

direction of W.J. Vaughan, principal of the village school.

Felch High School



Felch High School, ca. 1950. The portion of the building on the right was the school designed by F.E. Parmelee and constructed in 1911, opening January 2, 1912. The portion of the building on the left was an addition built of local sandstone in about 1935/1936 as a W.P.A. project. The building was razed – burned on purpose – in 1969, and the Felch Township Hall now occupies this site.

**Erected in 1911-1912 – Razed in
1935/1936**

Years Classes Held:

**Road
Felch**

[Felch High School was the Felch Township Hall in 1978]

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Saturday, July 22, 1922], page 1, column 5

FELCH GIRLS WIN TRIP TO DETROIT

The Misses Alvilda Rian and Gunhild Carlson, students in the school at Felch, have been awarded the honor of giving a demonstration in the art of sewing at the state fair to be held in Detroit the first week in September.

The award was made by Miss Barbara Van Huelen and Miss Ruth Cresswell, representatives of the domestic science division of the state agricultural college. Yesterday, the state agents completed a tour of the sewing clubs of the upper peninsula, during which they inspected the work of many students. Nearly all phases of the dress making were considered in making the award, even designing, dyeing of clothing and the removal of soiled spots.

As a reward for their general efficiency, the Misses Rian and Carlson will spend a week at the state fair with all expenses paid from Felch to Detroit and return. The girls will also give a demonstration at the round-up of upper peninsula farmers at the state experimental farm at Chatham.

The Misses Rian and Carlson will be accompanied to Detroit and Chatham by Miss Agnes Marrow, their instructor in the school at Felch.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – On May 11, 1911, the Felch School building was struck by lightning and burned. Just two weeks later, the Felch Township School Board borrowed \$5,000 on its negotiable bonds for the purpose of erecting and furnishing a new school building. On July 12, 1911, the contract to build a new brick school building for the

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

sum of \$9,300 was given to G.A. Gustafson of Norway, with the contractor to furnish labor and material according to Flau [sic] specifications. F.E. Parmelee was the architect.

Groveland School

Erected in 1910 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held:

Road Groveland Mine

Felch Township, Michigan Centennial: 1878-1978 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1978, page 91

September 12, 1908: Mabel Massie was hired to teach the Groveland School for a term of 9 months with a salary of \$50 per month.

June 1, 1910 minutes read: "Owing to the poor outlook at the present time at Groveland Mine, the board decided not to hire any teacher at the present time for next year."

Just two months later the board minutes read: "Inasmuch as the schoolhouse at Groveland Mine is too small and inconvenient and not in condition to keep school in, and as there are enough children to compel the board to keep a school at the above Groveland Mine and as the mine is now running and likely to do so in future, be it therefore resolved that the Board build a new schoolhouse at said mine to accommodate all children that are now there and likely to come there. The schoolhouses to be 24x38 with 10 foot 2x4 studdings."

In October, 1910: "Motion made and seconded that the outhouse at Groveland

School be removed further out from the school building. Motion carried."

It is possible to read mining history into the minutes of the Board of Education. The August 3, 1908 minutes include the following: "Motion was made and seconded that the secretary write to the Huron Iron Mine Co. for a lease of ground for the school house at Groveland Mine and that the Felch Township School District buy the old frame house from Captain H.A. Lawry for school purposes for the sum of \$100."

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – On Aug. 3, 1908, the Felch school board instructed its secretary to write the Huron Iron Mine Co. to get lease of ground for a school house at the Groveland Mine, and on that same date Felch Township bought the old frame house of Capt. H.A. Lawry for school purposes for the sum of \$100.

The Felch Township School District Board of Education passed a resolution on Aug. 1, 1910, to build a new school building at Groveland Mine, to replace one that was too small and in poor condition.

...

Records show that Mabel Massie, who taught at the old Groveland School in 1908, received \$50 a month for nine months. S. Rex Plowman, who taught at the Felch School in that same year, received \$70 per month for six months.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15,

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Number 12 [Thursday, August 11, 1910], page 4, column 1

John Sundquist was given the contract to build the new school for the sum of \$1,287.

FACTS FROM FELCH.

The local school board has decided to erect a new school building at the Groveland location. The building will be a one-story structure, ten feet high and twenty-four feet by thirty-eight feet on the foundation. Charles Forshman has been engaged to superintend the erection of the same.

Johnson School

Erected in 1912 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: -

Near the Erick Johnson Farm
Felch Township

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – Three months later, Oct. 11, 1911, the board [*Felch Township School District Board of Education*] voted to build a frame school building at Leeman's Farm. The bid of John J. Newman was accepted to build the new school for the sum of \$1,293.

\$1,287 contract

In 1912, another school building was constructed near the Erick Johnson farm. It was a one-room school with the same plan and specifications as the Leeman School.

Leeman's School

Erected in 1911 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: -1921

Leeman Farm
Felch Township

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – Three months later, Oct. 11, 1911, the board [*Felch Township School District Board of Education*] voted to build a frame school building at Leeman's Farm. The bid of John J. Newman was accepted to build the new school for the sum of \$1,293.

Felch Township, Michigan Centennial: 1878-1978 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1978, page 91

May 17, 1921 the secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Quinlan to close up his school at Leeman's when the 5-month school term is out.

Metropolitan School

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]



This photograph of the Metropolitan School, now used as a community center, was taken April 2, 2012.

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Metropolitan

Felch Township, Michigan Centennial: 1878-1978 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1978

INFORMATION **MISSING HERE**

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – Earliest records available from Felch Board of Education minutes show that on June 8, 1905, the board purchased two school sites at a cost of \$250 each. The site for the East School was purchased from Swan Anderson and the West School from Matt Wickman. Mineral rights were reserved on both deeds.

On April 20, 1906, the old East Metropolitan School was auctioned off to C.J. Farrell for \$332

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIX, Number 48 [Saturday, April 2, 1898], page 8, column 6

METROPOLITAN NEWS ITEMS.

At a meeting of the school board on Monday evening, the question of free text books [*sic – textbooks*] was considered. Notices were posted notifying the voters of Felch Township that the question of adopting the same would be voted upon on Monday, April 4th.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 7 [Thursday, July 7, 1904], page 1, column 3

New School House.

Next Monday, the tax-payers [*sic – taxpayers*] of the township of Felch will have an opportunity of voting upon the question of building a one-room school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] at Felch Mountain. The estimated cost of the building is \$1,000.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 43 [Thursday, March 16, 1905], page 5, column 4

Metropolitan Mention.

Metropolitan has in view the building of two new school-houses [*sic – schoolhouses*], a two-room building for New

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Town and also a like building for Old Town. But there is considerable discussion as to whether it would not be a better plan to consolidate and build one strong central school.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 51 [Thursday, May 11, 1905], page 5, column 2

Metropolitan Mention.

The school board held a meeting at the Town Hall last Saturday evening for the purpose of discussing various matters with regard to the purposed *[sic – proposed]* central school.

At the special election held here Friday to decide the question of a central school, thirty-eight votes were cast in favor of building such a school and seven against it.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 52 [Thursday, May 18, 1905], page 1, column 4

Central School.

The good people of Felch township have finally decided to erect a central school building and abandon the present structures at “Old” and “New” Metropolitan. The new building will be erected about midway between the two settlements. The school board is now making the necessary arrangements for the erection of an eight-room building to cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000. There are about 130 children in the district and the number is increasing each year. The decision reached by the people to unite forces and have one good school is certainly a sensible one.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 19, Number 51 [Thursday, May 6, 1915], page 1, column 2

New Schools.

In Breen township, the board of education has decided to build a new school-house *[sic – schoolhouse]* at Hardwood. As planned, it will be erected along the same lines as the new building at Hylas, a modern country school, costing about \$2,000. It is also learned that the Felch board of education has decided to erect an addition to the school-house *[sic – schoolhouse]* at Metropolitan.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 6 [Thursday, June 24, 1915], page 1, column 6

TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

Breen, Felch and Sagola to Expend Goodly Sums in Erections.

The contract for the erection of the new school building at Hardwood, in Breen township, was awarded last Monday to G.A. Gustafson. The successful tender was \$4,335. The contract for the heating plant is not included in the bid and the total cost of the building will be over \$5,000. The building will be erected under the supervision of Fred E. Parmelee, the local architect. Mr. Parmelee’s plans were highly complimented by the state department of public instruction. Mr. Parmelee is now preparing the plans for an addition and extensive improvements in the school building at Metropolitan, in Felch township. The cost of the addition and improvements

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

will exceed \$4,000. Tenders for the work are invited in another column. In Sagola township, the board of education has engaged Mr. Parmelee to prepare plans for a large addition to the school building in Channing, the railroad town having outgrown the present accommodations. The cost of the improvement will exceed \$4,000. It is expected to have all the buildings completed in time for the opening of the fall term of school.

Felch Township, Michigan Centennial: 1878-1978 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1978, page 91

Nov. 17, 1917: Miss Bessie Haltug was hired to teach at the Sturgeon School.

Turner Junction School

Princeton (Chopping) School



The Princeton School, sometimes referred to as the Chopping School, was located across the street from the Steinbrecker farm. The left portion of the above residence was the school structure. This photograph was taken April 2, 2012.



The Turner Junction School was located a railroad coach which teacher William Vaughn was instrumental in securing in the 1930's and having spotted beside the track at Turner to provide a schoolhouse for the children there. The coach was stripped down and outfitted with school desks and other school necessities, a potbellied stove for warmth and a Victrola to help with the singing. This photograph was taken April 2, 2012.

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Princeton

Sturgeon School

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Sturgeon

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held: -1938

Road
Turner Junction

Felch Township, Michigan Centennial: 1878-1978 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1978, page 102

There were buildings from an old logging camp at Turner and one time there were seven homes there. Ore cars, empties and filled, rumbled through as did

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

passenger coaches headed for Channing to connect with the Milwaukee Road there.

There were the Pikals, Millers, Gillespies, LaForests, Carlsons, Hattons, Hines, Johnsons, and Postuchows and other families through the years. It was an amazing little melting pot boasting of Russians, Poles, Irish, Danes, Germans, French, Swedes, Belgians.

Section Foremen who lived there included Hans Johnson, “Cuddy” Clairmont, Jacob Postuchow, Walter Anderson and the one who was foreman lasts, Jack Postuchow, Jacob’s son.

William Vaughn had taught school at Metropolitan as early as 1908 when in the early 30’s he was instrumental in securing a railroad coach and having it spotted beside the track at Turner to provide a schoolhouse for the children there. The coach was stripped down and outfitted with school desks and other school necessities, a potbellied stove for warmth and a Victrola to help with the singing, and there was a lot of it.

As at the Metropolitan School and later at Felch, Vaughn was a strict disciplinarian, whacking his pupils across the knuckles if they misbehaved, standing them in corners or “booting them in the rear” if necessary, or calling them “dumbsocks” if lessons weren’t prepared. But those he taught whether it be in Metropolitan, Felch, or Turner agree he had a big heart and would buy clothes, shoes, and provide food from his own garden for families who were hard pressed.

...

School in the railroad coach continued until 1938 when pupils, and Mr. Vaughn, were transferred to the school in Felch.

SAGOLA TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Sagola School No. 1



Students outside of Sagola School House, Spring of 1906; building later became St. Margaret’s Catholic Church



Students and mothers pose for photograph in classroom

**Erected in 1893 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held:**

**Street
Sagola**

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XV, Number 31 [Saturday, November 11, 1893], page 1, column 6

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

A Fine School-House.

The handsomest and most convenient one-room school-house [sic – schoolhouse] in the county has just been completed at Sagola at an expense of \$1,300, and the natives are very proud of it. The plans were furnished by Architect Clancey. The villagers now talk of building a church.

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIX, Number 26 [Saturday, October 23, 1897], page 1, column 5

SCHOOL FOR CHANNING.

Sagola will Have a Library of 150 Volumes.

County Commissioner of Schools Edwin L. Parmenter is now engaged in the work of establishing a new school for Channing in the Sagola district. Channing has never had a school and there are nearly twenty children in that district ready to be enrolled. A suitable building will be leased for temporary quarters and the school will be in full operation in about two weeks.

The supervisors of the Sagola school have voted the sum of \$50 for a school library. Mr. Parmenter has completed a list of 150 volumes suitable for the purpose for which they are intended and his selection has already been approved of by the Sagola supervisors. The library will add greatly to the school.

Sagola School No. 2



Students pose for class photograph inside classroom, ca. 1910-1915



Students pose for class photograph outside of school building, ca. 1910-1915

Erected in 1908 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held:

Street
Sagola

Sagola's Early Years: A History Of Sagola, Michigan by Darryl Ertel, 1986, page 39

A large, new schoolhouse was built in 1908. The original building consisted of two classrooms and a lunchroom. This was considered to be a luxury as compared to the previously-used one room building. This structure still stands today and is used as a community building. At a meeting of the directors of the Sagola Lumber

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Company on February 14, 1910, a motion was made by John J. FLANAGAN and seconded by J.M. ATLEY that the two lots north of the new school house be donated to the Catholic Church for church purposes only. The site is now used for auctions.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 22 [Thursday, October 20, 1910], page 4, column 1

SAGOLA NEWS GOSSIP.

A new heating and ventilating plant has been installed at the school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*]. The plant was furnished by Waterman & Waterbury, of Minneapolis.

Sagola's Early Years: A History Of Sagola, Michigan by Darryl Ertel, 1986, page 47

An addition was built onto the school house in 1911 to provide room for the ninth and tenth grades. This addition was 30' by 40' providing three classrooms instead of two, and retaining the lunchroom.

Sagola's Early Years: A History Of Sagola, Michigan by Darryl Ertel, 1986, page 48

June 5 [1913]: Commencement exercises of the Sagola High School will be held at the KOTMM Hall on Friday evening. The graduates are: Margaret KRAMER, Alma M. KRAMER, Chester A. CAREY, Gertrude KRAMER, Edward J. KRAMER, Elizabeth BROADLAND. The class motto: "Neglect not the gift that is in thee."

June 12 [1913]: Professor WILLEBRANT was re-engaged as the Superintendent of Schools and Misses Ella WOODARD and Celia HOSKRA as assisting teachers.

Sagola's Early Years: A History Of Sagola, Michigan by Darryl Ertel, 1986, pages 50-51

School teachers hired by the school board for the 1915-16 school year included H.F. WILLEBRANDT, principal. Mr. WILLWEBRANDT, a Chicago native, married Martha MC CABE in June 1916. The grade teachers hired were again Celia HROSKA and Ella WOODWARD. For the Channing School, Marion KANE was hired. And Alma KRAMER was engaged for the Randville School.

Sagola's Early Years: A History Of Sagola, Michigan by Darryl Ertel, 1986, pages 114-118

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL

The first known school was operated in a home located where Vinnie BURNS lived. When the number of school children grew too great for the little building, the older children were transferred to the upstairs of the community building (where the post office used to be) for their lessons. In 1898, there were forty students attending the Sagola school.

The building which later became the Catholic Church provided the next seat of learning. This building was located on a three hundred foot square piece of property which was sold to the school board by the Sagola Lumber Company in the early 1890's. The property was purchased for the price of \$1500.00. This, too, was a one-room school with a large, potfelled stove. A former teacher, Mrs. Alma (KRAMER) PETERSON, had recalled many cold winter days when both teacher and students would be hot on one side (the side facing the stove) and cold on the other.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

In the latter part of 1908, a larger school building was constructed. There are postcards of the new school postmarked March, 1909. This new school was built on the same plot of land as the old one. This building consisted of three classrooms and a lunchroom. It provided levels of instruction from grades one through ten, with nine and ten being designated as high school classes. When the high school was built in Channing in 1922, the high school students were sent there. They traveled to Channing in a covered wagon. During the cold months, the wagon was supplied with hay and each student was allotted *[sic – allotted]* a blanket for warmth on the hour long trek. On the occasions when the roads were impassable due to mud or snow, the students would board the train in Sagola and ride the line to Channing. Curt Sunday (being a Teamster) was hired to drive the horse drawn school bus. The first motor driven bus was driven by Eddy Dishaw.

The 1908 building formerly had three classrooms. When I attended school there in the 1940's only two of the classrooms were used as they had only two teachers...Mrs. CARLSON and Mrs. Alma (KRAMER) PETERSON. These two teachers taught grades one through six. Due to the large number of pre-war babies who had become school aged in 1946, the first and second grades were so large that the third grade was transferred to Mrs. PETERSON. Mrs. PETERSON then taught grades three, four, five and six...all in one room. She not only did an excellent job of teaching four grades at once, but also allowed the faster students to go forward at their own speed, rewarding them with time off when the weather was nice. This tactic allowed her to spend more time with the slower students who needed more time and

guidance. Mrs. CARLSON taught grades one and two at this time.

Punishment was meted out in a variety of ways depending on the offense. One being caught chewing gum in class was required to write one thousand times "I will not chew gum in class". Being in tougher and more practical times, the writing was done on a single sheet of paper...working first in one direction then the other until the paper was black. Talking or misbehaving in class would warrant an hour standing in the corner of the room facing the wall. For the more serious offenses, one could anticipate a visit from the superintendent from Channing, Mr. Einer ECKHOLM, and his wooden paddle. To a small grade-schooler Einer appeared to be a giant of a man whose threat of his paddle put fear in the student. In those days, the threat of the paddle was not just an idle threat, as I remember it being used more than once. Fortunately, I was never the recipient.

The Sagola School continued as a grade school after the transfer of the high school students until 1974 when the Sagola Township School System consolidated with the Felch Township district and constructed a new school on M-69 near Randville.

The earliest known teacher in the Sagola School was Lizzie REYNOLDS, the sister of Jane DOCKERY. Mr. EDMONDS was the earliest principal found in the school, being there in 1897.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

First Channing school Constructed in 1908

CHANNING – A small frame building which still stands and is owned and

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

occupied by Mrs. Melvina Burns was the first school in Sagola.

The second school was a one-room building housing all eight grades. It stands today and is St. Margaret Catholic Church.

The third school, used today as the Sagola Community Center, was built in 1905-06.

Early Teachers

Early teachers were Miss Margaret Flanagan, niece of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Flanagan, who were owners of the Sagola Lumber Co. after John O'Callaghan sold the firm and moved away, and Miss Mary McCole, a niece of O'Callaghan.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 31 [Thursday, December 22, 1904], page 11, column 3

NEWS GOSSIP FROM SAGOLA.

Miss Mary McCole, the efficient teacher in the public school, will spend the holidays with relatives in Lena, Wis.

An entertainment has been arranged for the school children to be given to-morrow [sic – tomorrow] evening at the K.O.T.M. hall. The exercises will consist of recitations and singing, followed by a distribution of presents from a Christmas tree. The teacher, Miss McCole, has been drilling the scholars in their several exercises for the occasion and it is expected that the entertainment will be an interesting one.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 32 [Thursday, December 29, 1904], page 5, column 3

NEWS GOSSIP FROM SAGOLA.

The entertainment given by the school children last Friday evening was well attended. The program was ably rendered by the children under the direction of the teacher, Miss Kate McCole, and elicited many rounds of applause from the audience.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 47 [Thursday, April 13, 1911], page 5, column 4

SAGOLA NEWS GOSSIP

Wm. Arnold, of Oconto, is moving the old school-house [sic – schoolhouse] to a new site north of the school grounds, where it will be remodeled for a Catholic church.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 16, Number 15 [Thursday, August 31, 1911], page 5, column 1

SAGOLA NEWS GOSSIP

An addition, 30x40 feet in size, is being built on to the school-house [sic – schoolhouse] for the purpose of providing a room for the ninth and tenth grades.

...
The public schools will open next Tuesday with R.W. Ruegsegger, of Jackson, as principal. Miss Margaret Flanagan, of Iron River, and Miss Helen M. Cleary, of Marquette, are grade teachers.

Channing's First Grammar School

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Erected in 1904 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: -1908

Bell Avenue (“Back” Street) and Forth Street, Block Three Channing

A History of Channing, Michigan by Viola Stevens, 1977, page 17

The first school in Channing was a one-room frame building located on the “back” street in block three which was used until 1908 or thereabouts. It later became the first Catholic church in town, and still later was occupied by the Romnack family. The building disappeared many years ago.

...

The first Catholic services were held in the building that had been the first school.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

First Channing school Constructed in 1908

CHANNING – The first building used as a school in Channing was located at Bell Avenue and Fourth Street, and was probably put into use in the 1890s.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 9 [Thursday, July 14, 1904], page 1, column 4

New School-House.

In Sagola township, on Monday last, at the annual school election, it was voted to erect a new two-room school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] at Channing. The estimated

cost of the building is \$3,000. The contract will be let at once.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 9 [Thursday, July 21, 1904], page 5, column 1

NEWS GOSSIP FROM SAGOLA.

Dr. M.F. Dockery and William Wifler were in Iron Mountain last Monday to look over plans for a new school-house to be erected at Channing.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 10 [Thursday, July 28, 1904], page 5, column 2

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

Channing is to have a new, up to date school-house with all modern conveniences. It will be heated by furnace.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 12 [Thursday, August 11, 1904], page 5, column 2

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

The plans for the new school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] are in the hands of the township clerk. The building will be 36x58 on the foundation and will have two classrooms with fourteen foot ceiling, well lighted and well ventilated. There will be a basement the full size of the building, a portion of which will be used for the

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

furnace-room [sic –furnace room] and the balance for a play-room [sic – playroom]. The entire work will cost about \$4,000.

...

The contract for clearing the ground for the new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] was let to Robert Nowack for \$90. The ground comprises three lots, 150x120 over all, and is located one block east of the Hotel Richard. Mr. Nowack commenced the work of clearing on Monday.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 13 [Thursday, August 18, 1904], page 5, column 1

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

Robert Nowack will finish grading the ground for the new school house [sic – schoolhouse] this week.

...

The Board of Education has employed Miss Mary McCole as teacher at Sagola and Miss Lizzie Reynolds at Channing for the ensuing school year.

...

The date for receiving bids for building the new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] at Channing has been extended to August 20th. The plans and specifications are now in the hands of the township clerk at Sagola.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 14 [Thursday, August 25, 1904], page 5, column 1

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

The contract for building the new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] was awarded last Saturday to John Anderson, of Crystal Falls, for \$3,435. There were three bids for the job as follows: Axel Newman, Norway, \$4,100; Edward Bemis, Channing, \$3,700; John Anderson, Crystal Falls, \$3,435.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 19 [Thursday, October 6, 1904], page 5, column 1

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

Work on the new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] is progressing finely. The frame is up and enclosed and the roof will be completed by the first of next week.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 22 [Thursday, October 20, 1904], page 5, column 2

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

Rev. J.P. Kunes, of Crystal Falls, read mass at the Channing school-house [sic – schoolhouse] last Sunday.

...

The new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] is all enclosed and ready for the painters. The contract for the heating apparatus was awarded to A.J. Rundle, of Iron Mountain, and will consist of a hot air system.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 25 [Thursday, November 10, 1904], page 5, column 3

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

The work on the new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] is progressing rapidly. The building will probably be finished by December 1st.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 26 [Thursday, November 17, 1904], page 2, column 4

NEWS GOSSIP FROM SAGOLA.

The board of education went to Channing last Tuesday to make an estimate on the work at the new school-house, so as to make a partial payment to Contractor Anderson.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 9, Number 38 [Thursday, February 9, 1905], page 3, column 2

CHIPS FROM CHANNING.

The new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] caught fire again last Friday. This time a defective chimney was the cause. The contractor had neglected to remove a piece of 2x4, which had been built into the chimney and used for the support of a staging, and it caught fire and burned through the wainscoting. The volunteer fire department was called out and extinguished the blaze.

Channing's Second Grammar School



Channing Public School, postcard view, ca. 1910-1915

**Erected in 1908 – Razed in 1932
Years Classes Held:**

**Bell Avenue (“Back” Street) and Sixth
Street, Block Six
Channing**

A History of Channing, Michigan by Viola Stevens, 1977, pages 17-18

The second school was a rather pretty building located also on the “back” street in block six. At first it had only two rooms, but later was enlarged to three rooms; and the school was divided into primary, middle and upper classes, the upper classes including two years of high school. I remember this school vividly because of an occurrence when I was in the first or second grade.

One afternoon when I was about six years of age, our teacher told us to put away our books as she was going to dismiss us. The sky had taken on an ominous greenish cast and it was so dark that it was impossible to see the blackboard. There were only kerosene lamps for illumination, which were

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

inadequate for school work, and so were seldom lighted. Before we could leave our seats, however, there was a tremendous crash; the building shook and trembled while lightning danced about the room. Plaster and debris rained down on our heads, striking terror into our childish hearts. No one was injured and we managed to get out of the building in some order, racing through the downpour to the safety and comfort of our homes and parents.

...

The second school, which in 1932 was converted to a gymnasium and community clubhouse through the generosity of Mr. J. Parke Channing, has also been torn down, and grass now grows where were the schools of yesteryear.

...

Protestant church services were held in the second school building until a church was built.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

First Channing school Constructed in 1908

CHANNING – The first building constructed as a school was put up in 1908 and was located at Belle Avenue and Sixth Street.

This building was converted into a gymnasium in the early 1930s and was Channing High School's home basketball court for many years.

...

Channing High School and the gym were razed in 1972.

...

Community house

"I will have to admit, contrary to general impression, that I had nothing to do with the laying out of the townsite of Channing. My work was confined entirely to exploration work in the iron ranges west of that place.

"I have seen Channing grow from nothing but a box car to a good-sized community and it was with the greatest pleasure that I was able to aid in a small way in establishing a community house."

In all probability, the "community house" of which Mr. Channing speaks was the conversion of the school built in 1908 to a gymnasium in the early 1930's.

The Range-Tribune, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume XIX, Number 26 [Saturday, October 23, 1897], page 1, column 5

SCHOOL FOR CHANNING.

Sagola will Have a Library of 150 Volumes.

County Commissioner of Schools Edwin L. Parmenter is now engaged in the work of establishing a new school for Channing in the Sagola district. Channing has never had a school and there are nearly twenty children in that district ready to be enrolled. A suitable building will be leased for temporary quarters and the school will be in full operation in about two weeks.

The supervisors of the Sagola school have voted the sum of \$50 for a school library. Mr. Parmenter has completed a list of 150 volumes suitable for the purpose for which they are intended and his selection has already been approved of by the Sagola supervisors. The library will add greatly to the school.

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Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 52 [Thursday, May 18, 1911], page 1, column 3

Struck Four Schools.

School buildings were “shining marks” for the lightning to shoot at last Wednesday, four having been struck. In addition to the Felch school, where one child was instantly [*sic – instantly*] killed and half a dozen rendered unconscious and the building burned to the ground, the new building at Niagara was struck; also the school-houses [*sic – schoolhouses*] at Channing and Palatka. Not much damage was done at Niagara. At Channing the lightning damaged the roof, entered the building and ripped the plaster off a side wall. At Palatka the lightning struck the flag staff on top of the building, shattering it in pieces, another bolt struck the chimney, scattering bricks in every direction. It followed the chimney to the basement, blew open the doors of the furnace, throwing soot right and left covering everything.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 6 [Thursday, June 24, 1915], page 1, column 6

TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS.

Breen, Felch and Sagola to Expend Goodly Sums in Erections.

The contract for the erection of the new school building at Hardwood, in Breen township, was awarded last Monday to G.A. Gustafson. The successful tender was \$4,335. The contract for the heating plant is not included in the bid and the total cost

of the building will be over \$5,000. The building will be erected under the supervision of Fred E. Parmelee, the local architect. Mr. Parmelee’s plans were highly complimented by the state department of public instruction. Mr. Parmelee is now preparing the plans for an addition and extensive improvements in the school building at Metropolitan, in Felch township. The cost of the addition and improvements will exceed \$4,000. Tenders for the work are invited in another column. In Sagola township, the board of education has engaged Mr. Parmelee to prepare plans for a large addition to the school building in Channing, the railroad town having outgrown the present accommodations. The cost of the improvement will exceed \$4,000. It is expected to have all the buildings completed in time for the opening of the fall term of school.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 20, Number 5 [Thursday, June 17, 1915], page 1, column 1

More School Room.

F.E. Parmelee recently submitted plans and specifications to the board of education of Sagola township for an additional school-room [*sic – schoolroom*], basement and heating plant at the Channing school. The board has accepted the plans. When the contract is let, Mr. Parmelee will superintend the construction of the improvements.

Channing High School

**Erected in 1922 – Razed in 1972
Years Classes Held: 1922-1971**

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Street Channing

A History of Channing, Michigan by Viola Stevens, 1977, pages 17-18

The third school was the fine new school built in 1922. It had all the modern conveniences and accommodated all grades, including four years of high school. Students from Sagola also attended high school classes in this school, which served the area for fifty years until the craze for consolidated schools swept the country and a sprawling new school was built in the wilderness near Randville to serve Felch and Sagola townships. The Channing school was accredited and during its span of existence, many of its graduates went on to be graduated from leading colleges and universities.

At the time the school was closed in 1971, there was a final reunion for all graduating classes since the first in 1924. The following excerpts are taken from the Iron Mountain News item of June 28, 1971, regarding the school and the reunion:

“The largest graduating class was in 1934 with 28 graduates. The smallest were in 1927 and 1948, each having only four graduates.

“Channing alumni are having a grand finale reunion on July 3 and 4.

“There were 22 graduates with the surname of Lindeman (three in the class of 1939). There were 22 graduates with the surname of Carey, 14 with the surname of Tobin and 13 with the surname of Roell.

“Joyce Olson Ashby graduated with the first class of 1924; her nephew, Daniel Olson, graduated with the last class of 1971.

“Blanche Willard Berg graduated with the class of 1934 and subsequently had seven children who graduated from CHS.

Clarence Roell graduated with the class of 1932 and also had seven children who graduated from CHS. His son, James, was a member of the last class of 1971.

“School colors for these many years have been orange and black. The school crest was a standing pine tree with an axe on one side and an oil can on the other, signifying the lumbering and railroading business in the Channing-Sagola area.”

The high school has been torn down.

The first teacher I remember was Miss Marie Donohue, whom I thought the most wonderful lady in the world next to my mother. Other early teachers were Maude Warren, Mr. Hargerink, Mr. Yeager, Miss Caine, Mr. Bell, Miss Kramer, Miss Roeker, Mr. Pearl, and Mr. Vaughan. After the high school was built, there were many additional teachers, some of whom were residents of Channing who had graduated from the high school. The school teachers always occupied an exalted position in the village and were an integral part of its social life.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

First Channing school Constructed in 1908

CHANNING – Channing High School opened its doors in 1922 and its first graduating class was in 1924. Channing High School remained in existence for 50 years. Over that period of time there were 48 graduating classes with a total number of 701 graduates.

Largest, smallest

The largest graduating class was in 1934 with 28 graduates. The smallest were

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in 1927 and 1948, each having only four graduates.

Channing High School colors were orange and black. The school's athletic teams were nicknamed the "Railroaders."

Channing High School and the gym were razed in 1972.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 25, Number 25 [Thursday, November 4, 1920], page 1, column 3

\$75,000 School.

The progressive little town of Channing is to have a modern school building as soon as the bonds can be sold and men can do the work. At a recent election held in the Sagola township school district, of which Channing is a part, it was voted to issue \$75,000 worth of bonds for the erection of the new building. The vote was more than two to one in favor of the bond issue. The bonds will be issued in denominations of \$5,000 with one falling due each year. Channing has outgrown its present school accommodations and the citizens are anticipating a rapid growth during the coming year.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Year _____, Number _____ [Friday, July 1, 1921], page 3, column 1

NEW SCHOOL BUILDING PLANNED FOR CHANNING

—————
**\$75,000 Appropriated for
Erection Fund – Open
Bids Today**
—————

The board of education of Sagola township will hold a meeting tomorrow for the purpose of receiving tenders for the erection of a handsome school building at the flourished village of Channing. It is anticipated that their contract will be let and that work on the building will start at an early date.

The plans and specifications for the new school were drafted by Fred. E. Parmelee & Son, the architects and superintendents of the city. An erection fund of \$75,000 was voted at a recent special election, the vote being largely affirmative. It is expected, however, the building completed, for the reception of instructors and students, will cost in the neighborhood of \$90,000. It will be the finest and most modern school building in Dickinson county outside of the cities of Iron Mountain and Norway and in the matter of appointments second to none.

The building will be two stories in height with a full length basement and of solid brick construction with stone trimmings. The size is 134.2 by 79.10 feet on the foundation. It will contain a large auditorium with stage on the main floor with ceilings 24 feet in the clear. The size of the auditorium will be 36x62 feet, and, with the stage, will afford fine accommodations for entertainments of a public character.

The building will contain eight class rooms [*sic – classrooms*] each 23x32 feet in size.

There will be two entrances in the front of the building and one on each side and there will be modern lavatories on each floor. Ultimately it is expected to utilize the basement of the building for domestic science and manual training departments.

The attendance at the Channing schools has had a rapid increase in the past two years and additional accommodations have become a necessitate. The schools have

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made fine progress under the direction of Supt. W.J. Vaughn.

Randville School

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Randville

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 17, Number 18 [Thursday, September 19, 1912], page 5, column 3

SAGOLA NEWS GOSSIP

The board of education of Sagola township has decided to build a school-house [*sic – schoolhouse*] two miles south of Randville. The building will be 20x30 feet on the ground and cost \$1,200. Work on the construction will be started as soon as the site is secured.

Wells School

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held:

Road
Sagola Township

WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan [undated newspaper clipping found in vertical file in the Dickinson County Library]

Pair of Felch school sites

were purchased for \$250 each

FELCH – The Felch board, in 1909, reviewed a communication from school inspector Hugh Campbell of West Branch Township concerning a school in West Branch Township. Felch Township gave authority to West Branch Township to build a school building for the months of May and June, with expenses to be paid by West Branch Township.

On Oct. 4, 1909, there was a joint meeting of the boards of education of the Townships of Breen, Felch and West Branch. The West Branch Township Board of Education paid the sum of \$1 to the board of education of Breen Township, thereby relinquishing all claims to any school property in West Branch Township. The board of education of the Felch Township School District paid the sum of \$675 to the board of education of West Branch Township, thereby relinquishing all claims to any money that the West Branch Township School District had against the board of education of Felch Township.

Alfred School

Erected in ____ – Razed in ____
Years Classes Held: -1936

Road
Alfred

West Branch Township History, 1844-2001; Ralph, Michigan, 1901-2001 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 2001, page 65

The school that had been built in Alfred, before the turn of the century, was built with lumber salvaged from a 100 year old house in Detroit and hauled up here by rail. The Alfred school continued operating until the end of the school year in 1936.

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

Kates School

Erected in _____ – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: 1909-1910

Road
Kates

History of Breen Township Schools from 1900-1923 by Esther (Peterson) Dawe, *Michigan's Breen Township, Dickinson County: The First Hundred Years 1878-1978* by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 1983, page 239

On April 8, 1909, it was decided to allow \$300 for equipping and maintaining a school at Kates for the two months of May and June, with the understanding that West Branch Township School Board Members reimburse Breen Township for the same amount, designating July as the target month for repayment.

Kentucky Town School

Erected in _____ – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: 1913-1920

Road
Lindsley (Kentucky Town)

West Branch Township History, 1844-2001; Ralph, Michigan, 1901-2001 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 2001, page 65

Many requests were being made to the West Branch Board, as well as the Breen Township Board for a school to be built in Kentucky town. The town was located so close to the border of the townships that there was a question as to which township was responsible. It was finally determined,

on March 3, 1913 that the Kentucky town was located in West Branch Township so it was decided to give the school a trial period. March 31, 1913 minutes show a school being started up at Lindsley (Kentucky Town) between Ralph and Alfred, just beyond the Ford River Farm. The last mention of a school operating in Kentucky Town was at the end of the 1920 school year.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 42 [Thursday, March 9, 1911], page 7, column 2

“KENTUCKY-TOWN” SCHOOL.

A New Settlement in Dickinson County Provided With a School.

This is a colony of wood-choppers [*sic* – *woodchoppers*] in the northeastern corner of the county, on the Marquette county line. Some of the families live in that county. They came from Kentucky, hence the name. The settlement is in the new township of West Branch. This township is formed of portions set off from Felch and Breen townships. It includes the northeastern corner of Dickinson county, and is two surveyed townships, or twelve miles in extent from north to south and one-and-a-half townships wide.

A new school was opened there recently. Like all other buildings, the school-house [*sic* – *schoolhouse*] is built of logs. There are eighteen pupils, most of whom never attended school before. This colony was planted by the I. Stephenson Co., of Wells. It is accessible during the winter only by a logging train running over a spur track from Wells. A young lady was engaged before the holidays for the position

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

of teacher, but finding out the absence of any suitable place to stay, and the difficulty of getting there on a logging train involving stopping over night at a saloon-ridden town on the Marquette side of the line, she was obliged to resign. A young man from Southern Michigan has since been imported as a teacher.

First Ralph School

Erected in 1910 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: 1910-1922

Road
Ralph

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 24 [Thursday, November 3, 1910], page 5, column 4

NOTES FROM RALPH.

The new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] at Ralph will be finished this week. It is a splendid little building and is heated by the Smith system of heating. We are all proud of it.

Iron Mountain Press, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, Volume 15, Number 25 [Thursday, November 10, 1910], page 5, column 4

NOTES FROM RALPH.

We moved into our new school-house [sic – schoolhouse] this week. It is a credit to the town.

...

We are all pleased with the work of Adolph Hammersmith, who constructed our new school-house [sic – schoolhouse].

Second Ralph School



Ralph School, opened in 1922 and currently serving as the West Branch Township Hall. was shut down by the State of Michigan due to lack of students on June 24, 1957 and consolidation with the Felch School District was forced at that time. The building was then sold to the township. This photograph was taken April 2, 2012.

Erected in 1922 – Razed in _____
Years Classes Held: 1922-1953

Road
Ralph

West Branch Township History, 1844-2001; Ralph, Michigan, 1901-2001 by Beatrice M. Blomquist, 2001, pages 65-67

The first W.B. Township School Board was chosen at an Annual Meeting held on July 11, 1910 at 3 p.m. Those elected were: Hugh A. Campbell, A.E. Quick, W.E. Rublin, August Anderson and Joe Trudeau. Mr. Trudeau failed to qualify so John Clarke was appointed to fill that vacancy.

One of the first actions taken by the Board was to advertise for bids on building a new school in Ralph and to discontinue

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[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

the school at Kate [sic – Kates] making it necessary for the children to travel to Ralph or board with some of the residents. Kate's [sic – Kates] school was closed that year, in 1910.

John Scott was awarded the bid to build the school. His was the only bid received and it was for \$980.00. The school at Alfred remained active to serve the many children living there at that time. The school, at the time, in Ralph was held in the log building, next to the first town hall, that was built as an office by the Mann Brothers.

...

The new school that was built in Ralph was completed and the final payment made on November 21[,] 1910 and the building was accepted as complete, by the Board.

A motion was made at the June 24th, 1912 school board meeting to include studies in Agriculture an [sic – in] the curriculum. This shows the interest in turning the area into a more divercified [sic – diversified] agricultural producing territory.

...

A new one-room school was built, in downtown Ralph, on an acre of land purchased from the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad Co. This Standard School served Kindergarten through eighth grades. The building was built with a full basement which was divided into two sections, on [sic – one] to house the furnace, with seperate [sic separate] rooms for storing wood and coal. The other, adjoining room, was finished and was used as a library, study and activities room. The main floor consisted of one large classroom and two smaller cloak rooms and four small supply closets. A bell, in the tower, called the children to classes and was a pleasant sound to hear.

Playground equipment consisting of swings, ocean-wave and monkey bars were

installed and the entire area was fenced with cyclone fencing.

The school was shut down, by the State of Michigan, on June 24, 1957 due to lack of students. Consolidation with the Felch Township School District was forced on the Township at that time. Memories of the good times still remain with those who attended school and who served, as teachers, in the District. Upon closure, the building was sold to the Township and has, since, served as the West Branch Township Hall. One of the two walls of slate has been panelled [sic – paneled] over, but the rest of the main classroom remains the same. The old maps are still on the way and are studied by alumni on their return to the area.

TEACHERS WHO SERVED THE STUDENTS

HIRED	NAME	SCHOOL	LEFT
09-07-09	Miss Bertha Gill	Ralph	05-00-11
09-07-09	Miss Jessie Stephens	Kates	07-05-10
	[Kates School discontinued]		
09-07-09	Robert J. Sage		03-00-10
04-01-11	Mr. A.E. Tubbs		
07-27-11	E.L. Parmenter	Ralph	
09-00-11	Miss Warren		
05-00-11	Miss Jessie Dunsmore		
09-00-12	Miss Etta Peterson	Alfred	03-03-13
	[teacher resigned]		
10-00-12	Clara Anderson	Alfred	
10-00-12	Miss Maude Warren	Ralph	
01-27-13	Mrs. Londerville	Alfred	05-00-15
01-27-13	Mr. Shepherd	Kentucky (Lindsley)	
09-01-13	Miss Amy Wells	Ralph	06-00-15
09-01-15	Miss Mabel Welch		06-00-15
09-01-15	Miss Laura Moody	Ralph	06-00-18
09-01-16	Miss Florence Coombe		11-00-16
09-01-16	Miss Grace Lawrence		06-00-16
09-01-17	Miss Lillian Anderson		06-00-16
09-01-18	Miss Evelyn Anderson	Ralph	10-15-18
09-01-18	Miss B. Filback		06-00-19
10-15-19	Miss Mary Campbell	(3 week substitute)	
11-00-19	Miss Augusta Radloff		06-00-19
09-01-19	Mrs. Kate Millard	Ralph	
09-01-19	Miss D. Farrell	Kentucky	06-00-20
09-01-20	Miss E. Ellingsen	Ralph	06-00-21

DICKINSON COUNTY HISTORY – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS – NORTH DICKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Compiled and Transcribed by William J. Cummings]

09-01-20	Mr. Willard Reeves		06-00-21
09-01-21	Miss Evelyn Erickson	Ralph	09-20-22
10-01-22	Freda Fillis	Ralph	12-30-22
01-01-23	Alvin Bloom	Ralph	06-01-24
09-01-24	Letta Foster	Ralph	06-01-25
08-30-26	Fred Myners	Ralph	01-28-27
01-31-27	Mrs. Helda Thode	Ralph	06-17-27
09-01-27	Miss Caroline Schwarz	Ralph	06-01-28
09-01-28	Miss Allegra Utley	Ralph	06-01-31
09-01-31	Mary C. Brewster	Ralph	05-00-36
09-01-34	Elvira Backlund	Alfred	06-01-35
09-01-35	Roy C. Anderson	Alfred	05-01-36
	[closed Alfred School]		
09-01-36	Irving R. Perine	Ralph	05-01-36
09-01-39	Miss Leona Vaughn	Ralph	06-01-41
09-01-41	Miss Ruth Koskela	Ralph	06-01-42
09-01-42	June Kiser	Ralph	06-01-43
09-01-43	Gladys Kenny	Ralph	06-01-45
09-01-45	Ruth Solberg	Ralph	06-01-48
09-01-48	Mrs. Lita Kimball	Ralph	06-01-50
09-01-50	Donna M. Blomquist	Ralph	06-01-51
09-01-51	Robert J. Hammersmith	Ralph	06-01-52
09-01-52	Jay Nelson	Ralph	06-01-53

that it fully complied with all the requirements of a standard school.

The school closed due to lack of pupils. School year '52-'53 showed just 6 pupils enrolled. Students were sent to Felch with tuition paid until consolidation. The era of a one-room school was over with a great loss to the public and students because of the close relationship of the students in these closely knit experiences.

Iron Mountain News, Iron Mountain, Dickinson County, Michigan, _____ Year, Number _____ [Friday, September 15, 1922], page 1, column 4

RALPH SCHOOL NOW OCCUPIED

The new school building at Ralph is finished and occupied. It was erected by Leaf and Abramson, the local contractors, and F.E. Parmelee & Son were the architects. The building was recently visited by an inspector of the state department of public instruction, who stated