



“SOILED DOVES” ON THE EASTERN MENOMINEE RANGE

**A History of Prostitution from “Old Man”
Mudge’s Stockade in Florence, Wisconsin,
in the 1880s to Iron Mountain’s Midway
Brothels in the 1920s**

**By William J. Cummings
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PROSTITUTION IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY – 1

- ❖ As the nineteenth century went on, prostitution as a profession became more common, rather than just occasionally soliciting. While many prostitutes still practiced their trade independently, the new class of professional prostitutes created a demand for a location to do their regular business, and the brothel served that purpose.
- ❖ During the late nineteenth century, brothels in the United States were no secret. Commonly referred to as “disorderly houses,” brothels were also known as bagnios, bawdy houses, cathouses, dens, houses of ill fame or ill repute, ranches and whore houses.
- ❖ A brothel inhabitant could be called by many names – some euphemistic, such as abandoned woman, bawd, fallen angel, good-time daisy, harlot, lady of the evening, soiled dove, wanton woman and woman of the town – and other less kind labels, like hooker, slut and whore.



PROSTITUTION IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY – 2

- ❖ The average brothel held five to twenty working girls. Some higher-end brothels also employed staff servants, musicians and a bouncer. The typical brothel contained several bedrooms, all furnished. These “five and ten-dollar parlor houses” attracted wealthy men, who used the facilities much as a gentlemen's social club. “One-dollar houses” were visited by members of the working class.
- ❖ Women joined brothels from all walks of life. The average prostitute was approximately 21, but many were as young as 13 or as old as 50.
- ❖ Typically thought of as an escape for young, poor, troubled women, brothels sometimes attracted those less expected. Trained musicians and singers sometimes were lured into it by their interest in easy money and fun times. Some others turned to brothels to get out of their boring, abusive, or otherwise unfulfilling marriages.
- ❖ Although they might be of various classes, ethnicities, and ages, most women who began or joined brothels had a shared goal: quick money. Many found themselves always indebted to their madams. Her lack of credit made a prostitute unable to buy items necessary for her trade (powder, cosmetics, perfumes and evening wear), and she was forced to buy them through her madam.



PROSTITUTION IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY – 3

- ❖ Some madams, often former prostitutes themselves, rose to become independently wealthy. The madam was responsible for the behavior of her prostitutes, which could prove challenging since drug abuse was common. A large focus for madams was keeping their business transactions discreet and staying on the good side of the law, which they did by contributing money to charitable organizations, schools and churches.
- ❖ Despite those efforts, much of the profit still went to legal fines and fees, since prostitution was largely illegal. Timely payment of these fines could usually guarantee a madam that her business could continue without fear of being shut down.
- ❖ A madam stayed involved in her business. Running a house with so many in it required skill. A brothel required the purchase of regular food and food preparation. A madam had to monitor the cleanliness of the brothel, including the sheets, which had to be changed several times in an evening, and a stock of wines and liquors for clientele. She was the boss of the brothel and so a madam fired and hired servants, maids and prostitutes.
- ❖ New faces in the brothel were desired by patrons and so madams had to find new women to recruit. Sometimes, that meant taking in a less-than-desired woman but one with youth and good looks. The “new” prostitute received training, cosmetics, and clothes from the madam.



PROSTITUTION IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY – 4

- ❖ Disorderly houses or any other dwelling used for purposes of selling sex or other lewd acts in the early twentieth century were illegal with a few exceptions: the states of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico and South Carolina. Penalties could range from \$1,000 and time in jail to much smaller fines.
- ❖ From 1911 to 1913 the United States Department of Justice undertook the task of collecting information on the numbers of prostitutes in brothels in order to use this information against the much-feared “White Slave Traffic.” This effort collected information from 318 cities of 26 eastern states. It estimated about 100,000 women to be working in brothels at the time, yet some estimated the total number of prostitutes to be as high as 500,000.
- ❖ The early development of the Menominee Iron Range in Michigan’s western Upper Peninsula occurred during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, contemporaneous with the Old West.
- ❖ Prostitution played a significant role in these mining towns.



EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE – 1

What do all the following early photographs have in common?



EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE – 2



A railroad crew which cut, graded and laid the tracks from Powers to the new iron mines in spring summer and fall of 1877.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE – 3



Chapin Mine iron miners at the mine location and newly-platted townsite of Iron Mountain in the spring or summer of 1880.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE – 4



Chapin “D” Shaft of Iron Mountain’s Chapin Mine probably dating to the early 1890s.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE – 5



Lumber camp crew worked in Breen or Felch Township, Dickinson County, between 1880 and 1900.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE – 6



Lumberjacks in front of the cook house in a northeastern Dickinson County lumber camp in about 1912.

EARLY DEVELOPMENT THE MENOMINEE IRON RANGE – 7



WHAT DO ALL THE PRECEDING PHOTOGRAPHS
HAVE IN COMMON?

THEY ALL PICTURED MEN – MAINLY
YOUNGER, SINGLE MEN.

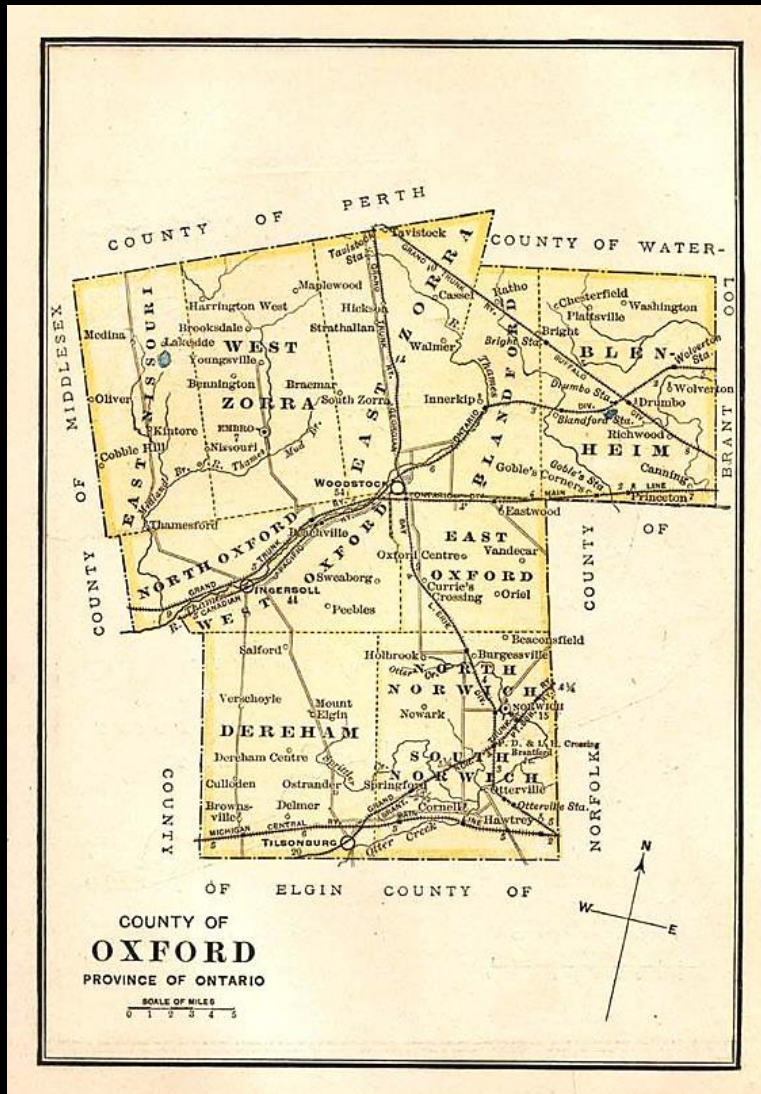
OVER 600 MEN BUILT THE MENOMINEE RANGE
RAILROAD FROM POWERS TO IRON RIVER.

OVER 2,000 MEN EXPLORED FOR IRON ORE
AND WORKED IN THE IRON MINES.

OVER 1,500 MEN WORKED AS LUMBERJACKS
IN THE VIRGIN PINE FORESTS.

THUS, SEVERAL THOUSAND MEN INHABITED A FRONTIER
WHERE THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF WOMEN!

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1



- ❖ A son of **Abel Mudge** (1812-1855) and **Mary Harp** (1816-1885), **Lewis Croin Mudge** was born **April 2, 1839**, in **Blenheim Township, Oxford County, Ontario, Canada**. His father was a minister. Oxford County is in southwestern Ontario, just north of Lake Erie.
- ❖ On **December 18, 1855**, **Rev. Abel Mudge** died in Canning (formerly Mudge Hollow), Blenheim Township, Oxford County, Canada West (Ontario) at the age of 43, when son **Lewis** was sixteen years old.
- ❖ Six years later, in **1861**, 22-year-old **Lewis** was **jailed for the first time in Woodstock, Oxford County**, which must have shocked his family.
- ❖ On **April 6, 1862**, 23-year-old Lewis married 16-year-old **Matilda “Maude” Hunt** (1846-1924), daughter **John and Mary (Folger) Hunt**, in **Oxford County, Ontario**.
- ❖ Their first child, daughter **Alzimina “Mina” Gertrude Mudge** (1862-1930), was born **June 8, 1862**, just two months after her parents’ marriage.
- ❖ Despite being educated and raised with many advantages, **Lewis ran a criminal network that reigned over the southern half of Waterloo County, Ontario, north of Blenheim Township**. His band of highway robbers, headquartered at the Black Horse Tavern on the Roseville Road, terrorized travelers throughout the area. He was widely feared and thought to be unstoppable.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 2

- ❖ On September 6, 1864, Lewis Franklin “Frank” Mudge, the couple’s second child, was born, in Blenheim Township, Oxford County, Ontario.
- ❖ In 1865, Lewis and Matilda “Maude” Mudge were arrested for selling liquor without a license and incarcerated in the Waterloo County Jail in Berlin (later Kitchener), Ontario. Freed upon paying a \$34.70 fine, the family began moving west.
- ❖ On the 1870 U.S. Census, Lewis, 31, and Matilda, 24, appeared in Lapeer, Lapeer County, Michigan, where they ran a saloon. Daughter Alzimina “Mina” (1862-1930) and son Lewis Franklin “Frank” (1864-1871) were living with their grandmother in Blenheim Township, Oxford County, Ontario, when Frank died a year later on July 1, 1871.
- ❖ A second daughter, Ursula Maud Mudge (1878-1945) was born in Cheboygan, Cheboygan County, Michigan, on February 28, 1878.
- ❖ According to the 1880 U.S. Census, Lewis, 41, Matilda, 34, and Maud, 2, were living in Ishpeming, Marquette County, Michigan. Lewis had no occupation listed and Matilda was “keeping house.”
- ❖ On November 17, 1880, 18-year-old Mina Mudge, daughter of “Louie” and Matilda Mudge, married Frank “Bolduck” [*sic* – *Bolduc*], son of Frank and Maria “Bolduck”, in Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin.

This studio tintype of Lewis Croin Mudge, holding daughter Alzimina “Mina” Mudge, and his wife, Matilda “Maude” (Hunt) Mudge, was taken in about 1864 in Canada. [Dale Bomberg]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 3



- ❖ With headquarters in Florence, Wisconsin, until about 1890, Lewis Croin Mudge was the most infamous of all the individuals involved in prostitution and white slavery on the Menominee Iron Range and beyond.
- ❖ In his book *Be-Wa-Bic Country: The Story of the Menominee Iron Range in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan* Herbert F. Larson, Sr., described Mudge’s arrival on the Menominee Iron Range as follows:
 - ❖ *Just who Mudge was is not clearly known, but he did have an eye for business, for when he was informed that a new railroad was being built on a new iron range and that the new town of Florence, Wisconsin, was not only the end of the railroad but the headquarters of many large lumber companies, he decided that that was the place to go to.*
 - ❖ *Here would be the focal point for a large number of potential customers – four hundred men building a railroad, one thousand men in the mining camps, and another twelve to fifteen hundred men working in the various surrounding lumber camps. Most of these men were young and single, and what they needed was recreation, entertainment and “that is just what I intend to give them,” mused Mr. Mudge.*

This portrait of Lewis Croin Mudge was probably taken between 1860 and 1865 in Ontario. [Ancestry]

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 4



This photograph of Central Avenue, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, was taken in 1880 and exemplifies frontier mining settlement beginnings on the Menominee Iron Range. Florence developed around an iron mine discovered by Hiram D. Fisher, of Menasha, Wisconsin, in October of 1873. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 5



In 1880, the settlement of Florence formed a part of Marinette County, Wisconsin. According to the census enumeration of that year, the population of the settlement was 267.

In his book *Be-Wa-Bic Country: The Story of the Menominee Iron Range in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan*, published in 1963, Herbert F. Larson, Sr., described the early years in Florence as follows:

Many notorious characters were attracted to the new boom Menominee Iron Range mining camps.

As the railroad pushed on from Powers to Quinnesec, Iron Mountain, Michigan, and Florence, Wisconsin, Florence became, by far, the toughest, hell-roaring town on the new Menominee Iron Range.

Here were not only located two large mining camps, but also the headquarters of the large lumber companies who not only operated large warehouses but shipped in and picked up hundreds of men to work for them in their nearby lumber camps, located along the Menominee, Paint, Michigamme and Brulé Rivers.

The places of business located along the single main street, which was nothing more than a long mud hole flanked by raised wooden sidewalks, were saloons, houses of prostitution or gambling dens. It was not unusual for all three to be housed under one roof.

As there was no law and order, it was unsafe to walk the main street after dark. The sheriff was powerless. No one really wanted the sheriff's job, for when the men cut loose, the sheriff had to let them go.

Two well-known characters hit town about the same time. They were Morrison and Mudge. They operated dance halls. Morrison's was midway between Florence and Commonwealth, while Mudge's was on the other side of town on the road leading to Crystal Falls.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 5



This view of the village of Florence was taken by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, pioneer Menominee Range photographer, in the 1880s. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

Most of today's residents of the Menominee Iron Range don't realize its development coincided with the development of the Old West. In the Old West countless boomtowns appeared, often existing only a brief time until the mines gave out, the cattle drives ended or the railroad crews set down somewhere else. Deadwood, South Dakota, sprang up almost overnight after gold was discovered in 1875. A massive fire destroyed almost 300 buildings in 1879, and as the gold claims were pretty much played out, people moved on. Tombstone, Arizona, was also a mining boom town between 1877 and 1890. Within a few years its population exploded from about 100 to 14,000.

Most Menominee Iron Range boomtowns remained with populations declining as the iron ore petered out.

Many of the following articles, taken from *The Florence Mining News* were written by Chase Salmon Osborn during his tenure as co-editor of that early newspaper from May 5, 1883 to April 9, 1887. Osborn was Michigan's governor from 1911 to 1913.

The articles contain information on Lewis C. Mudge, Mina Mudge and the Mudge Gang, as well as an assortment of articles on prostitution and crime in Florence County, Wisconsin, and nearby Dickinson County (then a part of Menominee County), Michigan.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 6



In his book Herbert F. Larson, Sr., described **Mudge** as follows:

Some claim he was a traveling preacher from northern Ohio or Indiana. Others say he was a professional gambler from Benton Harbor, Michigan, and had come north to Pequaming, Michigan, on a lumber barge. He could have posed as a traveling preacher for he did have a remarkable command of the English language. In order to attract attention, he dressed like a preacher, but those who knew him well said he resembled more closely the head man of the old traveling medicine show.

Mudge was a neat dresser. He always wore a hard-boiled shirt, sometimes a plain but mostly a colored vest, a cotton black string tie, a Prince Albert coat and a high shiny plug hat. His clothes were always immaculate. He also carried a cane. In his upper left hand coat pocket, he wore a pair of kid gloves, the fingertips of which hung out over the top of his pocket.

A large, rugged, powerfully built man, he carried his dress well and was a very smooth operator. As an entertainer, he could saw on a violin. He also had a good voice. He did the calling for all square dances and with his violin made quite a show. When he became so badly crippled with rheumatism that he could not play the violin anymore, his daughter took over.

Lewis Croin Mudge (1839-1897) probably posed for this studio photograph in about 1875 to 1880. His stylish clothing, including plaid pants, document the claim “Mudge was always impeccably dressed in fine clothes.” [Ancestry]

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 7



On June 25, 1881, Lewis Cronin Mudge’s name first appeared in *The Florence Mining News* in the following two items:

Old man Mudge informs us that he is going to Canada to pay his relatives and friends a short visit and hopes and prays that those who owe him, will come up to the lick log and put down their dust!

And...

Reward – I will pay \$5 to any person that will show me the d----d [damned] villain that stole my cane, any one returning the cane will be rewarded. Old Mudge

Two weeks later, on July 9, 1881, Mudge’s name again appeared in *The Florence Mining News*, as follows:

ON Sunday last – so it is said – a beer glass, in the hands of Old Mudge, suddenly broke loose from its moorings and came into collision with the roof of Peter Jourdan’s upper story. After shaving about a quarter section of it, the doctor had sufficient territory cleared, on which to commence operations.

In the same edition of *The Florence Mining News* a reference was made to “Biler Avenue”, where Mudge’s “establishment” was located, as follows:

IT is singular how after the shadows of evening are falling fast, strangers are anxious to explore the far famed “Biler Avenue.” It has got an extended reputation and as one of the “sights” of the town, has to be interviewed. Competent and trusty guides can be had for a comparatively small compensation.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 8



This photograph of Central Avenue, Florence’s main street, was taken by Jorgen Johansen Eskil in 1890. The Ludington House, a hotel, is at the far right. Note signs indicating a grocery store and a merchant tailor shop in the same block. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

“Biler Avenue” was the nickname for a two-block stretch of Pacific Avenue in late nineteenth-century Chicago made notorious by “women without husbands” who “got ’biling drunk,” and were in a “state of constant riot and effervescence,” according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 9

The following items referencing “Old Mudge” appeared in the [July 23, 1881](#), edition of *The Florence Mining News*:

BILER AVENUE is fast losing its attractions, and now “Old Mudge” is wearing a long face, and with a sigh declares that if things go on in this deplorable way much longer, that even he, – the pride of the avenue – will soon have to move to a more favorable locality, for the benefit of his health and reputation. The NEWS may mourn his departure, as he has furnished it with the nucleus for many a local item, and can cordially recommend him to the notice of any small town, needing a “central ornament.” Applications from towns along the Range can be sent to this intelligence bureau.

The following week *The Florence Mining News* published the two following items in its [July 30, 1881](#), edition:

ANOTHER deacon of the Biler avenue synagogue [house of ill repute] had to succumb to the inevitable and start out on a pilgrimage.

OUR esteemed fellow citizen, “Old Mudge,” is traveling, to save his reputation. We’ll weep no more.

Believing, we rejoice,

To see the cuss removed.

In the [August 27, 1881](#), edition of *The Florence Mining News* the following item appeared:

THE synagogue [house of ill repute] on Biler avenue is on its last legs. A priestess who officiated there has had to leave town. Keep the good work moving on.



The following article appeared in the [September 23, 1882](#), edition of *The Florence Mining News* regarding the risks of walking down Florence’s “Biler Avenue” after dark:

IT is not safe for an innocent, good looking man to go around this town after dark, especially on the back street, commonly called “Biler avenue.”

It would appear so, however, from the fact that one of our worthy police officers got into a rather serious difficulty one evening last week by being on said avenue rather late. If a policeman will get into trouble, most any person is likely to get into the same predicament.

It seems that said good looking officer, with a moustache and chin whiskers, occurred down that way in the discharge of his respective duties, and was abducted into one of the houses there by a young lady. She told him there was a man in the building who needed taking care of.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 10

The officer, who is always ready to do anything in his power for the gentle sex, accompanied her into the house, where he found another young lady, but could not see anything that had the appearance of a man. He was somewhat puzzled at first, but one of the girls said she guessed he had gone out to get a drink and might be back in a few minutes and invited the cop to take a seat and wait a short time.

He waited about as long as he thought best and the man did not show up, so he started to go, but as he arose one of the girls took his handcuffs out of his coat pocket, while the other one tumbled him over a chair onto his back and her companion clasped the bracelets onto the wrists of the worthy police.

They had him foul, and then proceeded to go through him.

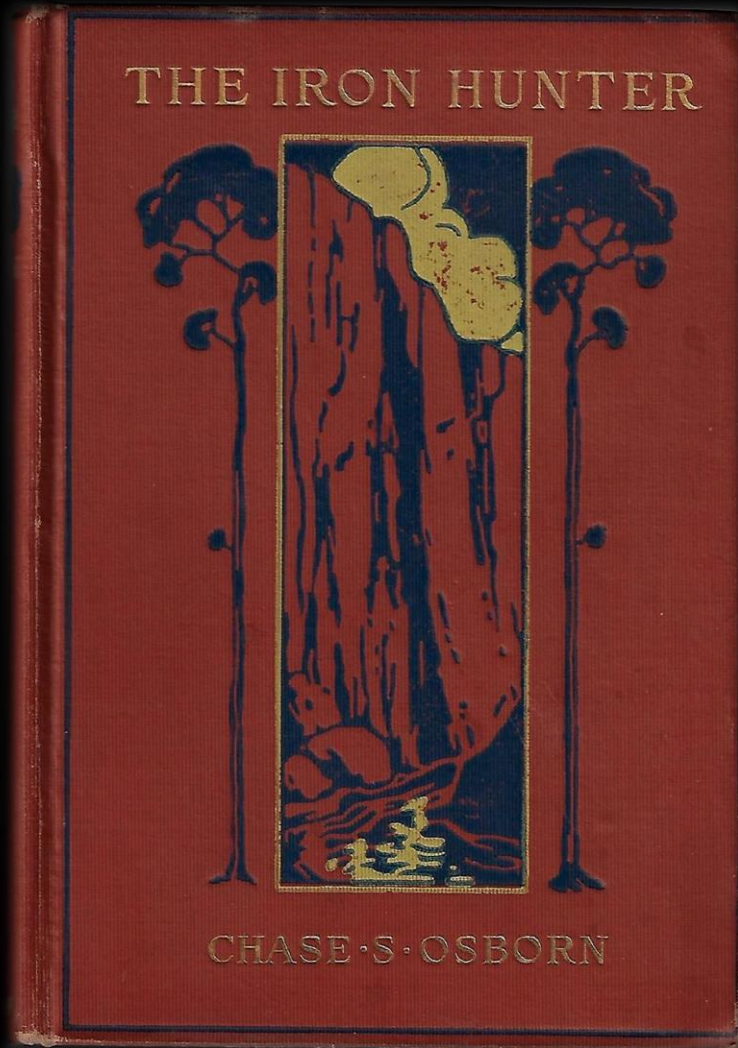
They took everything he had in his pockets and then took his pockets away from him, which did him up in grand style. (He had no pockets in his under shirt [sic – undershirt].)

After they got through with him he looked a good deal like a native of Africa, and had on about as many clothes as a genuine cannibal. After they had tortured him for about two hours, they proceeded to ----- let him go.

It did not take him any alarming amount of time to get home and clean up. He declares that the next time he has occasion to go on “Biler” after dark, he will take a whole squad of police along to protect him from the innocent “famules” [females] who infect that part of the city.



THE IRON HUNTER – CHASE S. OSBORN – CHAPTER 1 – 11



The Iron Hunter, an autobiographical account of **Chase S. Osborn**, governor of Michigan from **January 2, 1911** to **January 1, 1913**, and Michigan's only governor from the Upper Peninsula, was published in 1919.

In Chapter 1 – Titled “**Wolves – Human and Otherwise**” – the author recounts his years as co-editor of *The Florence Mining News*, located in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, with **James I. Toner**, from **May 5, 1883**, to **April 9, 1887**.

His encounters with **Lewis Croin Mudge** and Mudge's daughter **Alzamina “Mina” Mudge** are well documented, as is the account of the kidnapping of **Willie Dickinson**, the 6-year-old son of **Capt. William Edmund and Elizabeth (Sargent) Dickinson**, who disappeared when returning from school on **November 1, 1881**.



Chase Salmon Osborn (1860-1949)

THE IRON HUNTER – CHASE S. OSBORN – CHAPTER 1 – 12

The blood-searching howl was repeated in greater volume – four wolves this time. It was getting late in the little mining town, but drunken shouts and the crack of a shot could now and then be heard.

...

This took place at Florence, Wisconsin, in the heart of the Menominee iron range, one of the Lake Superior iron ore districts. Conditions here were similar to those of every new range. There is always an outlaw headquarters in all new regions remote from disciplined centers. Florence, at this period of the early eighties, was a metropolis of vice. There was gambling on the main streets, outdoors inclement weather and unscreened indoors when driven in by cold and storm. Prostitution was just as bold. Its red passion garbings paraded every prominent place in town.

A mile out of town, Mudge's stockade was the central supply station. It was the prison used by the nerviest white slavers that ever dealt in women. A long log camp with frame gables held a bar and dance hall and stalls on the first floor. On the second floor were rooms about the size of those in a Tokio [sic – Tokyo] Yoshiwara. A third-floor attic contained dungeons and two trap doors. In the cellar were dark cells and a secret passage, well timbered with cedar, leading to where the hill on which the stockade was located broke down into a dense swamp.

Surrounding this camp of death, and worse, were sharp pointed palisades, ten feet high, of the kind used against the Indians to inclose [sic – enclose] pioneer blockhouses. There were loopholes. Two passages led through the stockade. One was wide enough to admit a team. This was fastened with hornbeam cross bars. The other entrance was narrower and for commoner use. It was protected by a solid sliding gate of ironwood.

On either side of this gate, inside, two big, gaunt, terrifying timber wolves were chained. It was the howls of these four wolves we had heard.

This stockade was a wholesale warehouse of women. There were several in the Lake Superior iron country in the early days, but I think this one at Florence was the most notorious and the worst.

It was built by "Old Man" Mudge. He was a white-livered, sepulchral individual who wore a cotton tie, a Prince Albert coat and a plug hat; even wore this outfit when he fed the wolves. Mudge worked as a preacher through northern Indiana and Ohio and the scoundrel used his clerical make-up to find advantage. He had a ready tongue and roped in girl after girl. Not much attention was paid in those days to pimping and procuring. Whenever a murder grew out of his acts, the old fox would so involve his trail that, if it led anywhere at all, a church was at the end of it, and that would throw off the sleuth.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 13

“Old Man” Mudge and his daughter Mina (Mudge) Bolduc had some competition in the white slave trade in the vicinity of Florence, as evidenced by the following account in the February 26, 1881, edition of *The Florence Mining News*:

ON Saturday last, the report came that a man had been shot by John Morrison, the keeper of a house of ill-fame, across the lake, on the edge of the village of Commonwealth.

A number of citizens from Florence went to examine into the matter, and found a man lying dead beside the road. His face was partially covered with blood, which had issued from his mouth. The body was placed in a sleigh and brought to Florence.

The following article which appeared in the January 6, 1883, edition of *The Florence Mining News* validates Osborn’s description of timber wolves being kept at Mudge’s stockade, but this wolf was apparently not as ferocious as those mentioned in Osborn’s account.

WEDNESDAY evening Mudge’s full grown wolf, which is kept chained at his place, broke loose and was gallivanting about the streets. It was tame and playful and did no harm, but it may break loose once too often for the good health of some of our people. Tame wolves and bears make excellent shooting. He wants to keep his cats at home.

This detail of a photograph of Lewis Croin Mudge probably dates from the 1880s or early 1890s. [Find A Grave]



THE IRON HUNTER – CHASE S. OSBORN – CHAPTER 1 – 14

AN ALTERNATIVE DESCRIPTION OF MUDGE'S STOCKADE IN FLORENCE, WISCONSIN

Herbert F. Larson, Sr., author of *Be-Wa-Bic Country: The Story of the Menominee Iron Range in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan*, borrowed Osborn's fanciful description of Mudge's "stockade," but then described Mudge's "place of business as it really existed" as follows:

His place of business, as it really existed, was a two-story frame building about forty-five feet long and twenty-four feet wide, built of plain pine lumber bought at the sawmill on the shore of the lake in town. It was painted a dark red and was set back away from the supply road, which led to the lumber camps on the rivers and crossed the Bruleé river at Stephenson's camp, now called Washburn's, and which led to the new settlements of Crystal Falls and Iron River. Upstairs there were twenty small bedrooms with a large master bedroom; downstairs there was a dining room and kitchen where meals were served only during meal times to the inmates and guests. Some of the girl inmates doubled as waitresses and cooks.

There was a large dance hall with tables and chairs along the sides; in one corner was an upright piano, where Peggy Ragan, in later years, dished out the music for dancing.

When Mudge became so cripple [sic – crippled] with rheumatism that he could not play the violin, Mina took over only on special occasions. She had been taught to play the violin by her father. Generally, there [were] several girls who had good voices; they also entertained by singnig [sic – singing] and dancing.

In the later years, it is said that no liquor was served in the dance hall. Mina decided, in order to make for better feeling with the saloon keepers in town, she would reserve that business for them. However, liquor was served with meals for special guests.

Nobody was allowed entrance unless his calked or hob-nailed boots were taken off in the entrance room. This rule was strictly enforced. One of the favorite stunts for pranking lumberjacks would be to enter a poolroom and dance a jig with their sharp steel calk boots, on top of the pool table and after the cloth was torn to ask the proprietor what the damages were.

Outside, there were the usual tying rails for the horses where two harmless large bull dogs were sometimes tied. In the rear, there was a barn in which the livestock was kept and in the carriage shed were single and double horse carriages and sleighs. Mina, when she wanted to get out, would drive a fine team of blacks over whatever roads existed.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 15

In his book Herbert F. Larson, Sr., also noted:

He [Lewis Cronin Mudge] came to Florence before the railroad with his daughter Mina, who acted as barkeeper and keeper of the girls of easy virtue. The place was never locked. It was wide open, day and night.

The number of girl inmates kept at the establishment depended on the season of the year. When the times were slack, there were only six or so, but when the rush season was on, such as the break-up of the spring camps or the entrance into the woods in fall, as high as twenty girls would be available. These extras were generally imported from Green Bay, Marinette or Escanaba.

While the white slave trade throve in Florence, Mudge generally did not use outside girls, for they, as a rule, had some dissipated bully living off the wages of their sin, bullies who were always ready to beat them up if they tried to hold back on him. It was not an uncommon thing, when the camps broke up in spring, for the passenger train to leave town and be held up for long periods of time by the hilarious drunken men bidding their girl friends good-bye.

Lewis Croin “Lou” Mudge probably posed for this studio photograph in about 1875 to 1880. [Ancestry]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 7-8-1882

In the July 8, 1882, edition of *The Florence Mining News*, a number of African Americans appeared in court before Judge Foster. The insensitive description of these individuals unfortunately reflects the era. They were accused of operating or being inmates of a house of ill repute, as follows:

A VERY dark case came up before Esquire Foster on Wednesday last, when Sally Flately, Mandy Jones, Bob Snowdrop and Josh Billings, [sic] were called to appear before the bar of justice and answer to charges of keeping, or being inmates of a house of illfame [sic – ill fame]. The first three were as black as the ace of spades, on a rainy midnight, in a dark cellar. The last one called himself white.

From the statement of the several parties arrested, it seemed that Sally does washing for a living. Mandy is an assistant in that line of business. Bob had just dropped in on a friendly visit, and as Josh was found under a bed and as his clothes were piled up in another part of the room, it did seem at a first glance that circumstances were somewhat against him. He explained this unfortunate feature of the case by informing his honor that as he had but one suit of clothes, he necessarily, if wishing to have them cleansed, would have to remain without them at least long enough to let them dry.

The statements were all reasonable and plausible but this did not prevent his honor from inflicting proportionate fines on the entire batch. Sally has always kept a malodorous ranch [house of ill repute] and if the dirty nest can be broken up it will be a good thing for the community.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 16



On November 17, 1880, Mina Mudge, daughter of “Louie” and Matilda Mudge, married Frank “Bolduck” [*sic – Bolduc*], son of Frank and Maria “Bolduck”, in Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin. The bride and the groom were both born in Canada.

A son, Louis, was born to the couple on June 12, 1883, in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin.

On September 27, 1887, Frank Bonaventure Bolduc and Mina (Mudge) Bolduc were divorced in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin. Mina Bolduc was listed as a saloonkeeper in Iron Mountain, Menominee County, Michigan, in *R.K. Polk’s Michigan Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1887*.

(Left) Frank Bonaventure Bolduc (1848/1849-1923) [*Geni*]

(Right) Alzamina Gertrude “Mina” (Mudge) Bolduc was 22 years old when she posed at J.J. Eskil’s Studio in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, in 1886. [*Dale Bomberg*]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 5-31-1884 – 1



Frank Bonaventure Bolduc

In the [May 31, 1884](#), edition of *The Florence Mining News* Editor [Chase S. Osborn](#) wrote the following account documenting an incident involving three notorious men connected with the prostitution trade in Florence – [Pat McHugh](#), [Frank Bolduc](#) and [Lewis Croin Mudge](#).

M’HUE ARRESTED.

Mrs. McHue Joins Her Husband – An Attempt to Raid Bolduc’s Bagnio Forestalled by the Flight of the Inmates – A Day of Excitement.

A warrant was issued on Friday morning for the arrest of [Pat McHue](#), on the charge of using abusive language on the street. When [Sheriff Readmon](#) served the warrant McHue defied him, and, while he was securing aid, McHue ran up stairs [sic – upstairs] in [John Morrison’s](#) building, and out the back door, making his escape to [Bolduc’s](#) place north of town. Sheriff Readmon, [Deputy Sheriff Noyes](#), [Wm. Noyes](#), [VanMartyr](#) and [Bob. Andrews](#) followed him, after due preparation in [Webb’s delivery wagon](#). When they were within fifteen rods of the bagnio McHugh [sic – McHue] appeared in the door, and called to them to hold on. They did not slacken their pace and he

FIRED FIVE SHOTS

at them as they approached. Having emptied his revolver without succeeding in frightening the officers and their aids [sic – aides], he turned and fled. They surrounded the building in time for [Wm\[.\] Noyes](#) and [VanMartyr](#) to see him run from the back door and make for the woods over the garden fence. They gave chase and Noyes overtook him at a distance of forty rods, when McHue threw up his hands, saying, “don’t shoot, I squeal. I give up.” He was brought back to town in handcuffs and lodged securely in jail. McHue had been quarrelsome for some time, having

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 5-31-1884 – 2



Frank Bonaventure Bolduc

DRAWN A REVOLVER

in a fray the night previous. This troubler of the peace finds himself at last in a bad box. Those five shots fired deliberately at the officers are likely to send him “over the road,” it being under the statutes a penitentiary offense.

*The citizens generally are jubilant over the fact that he has finally reached the end of his rope, and that so good an opportunity for effectually getting rid of him is afforded. **Mr. Noyes**, the deputy sheriff, says; [sic – says:] “If they don’t send him up, I’ll never arrest another man in **Florence**; I’ll pay my five dollars fine every time first.” The officers deserve a great deal of credit for their faithfulness both in this case, and heretofore. His preliminary examination will be held this morning. Afterwards*

HIS WIFE WAS ARRESTED

for abusing the sheriff.

*The excitement continued to run high throughout the day. A considerable addition to it in the afternoon was brought about by the sheriff and a posse of men consisting of **Charles and William Noyes**, **George Keyes** and **George Billman**, making a sally upon **Bolduc’s bagnio** for the purpose of “pulling it.” The inmates had taken French leave and by a forced [sic – forced] march escaped into Michigan, via the Brule road, thus forestalling the action of the officers.*

ANOTHER RAID

*was made, later in the day, upon **Mudge’s place on Florence avenue** and two men and two women were taken into custody and placed in the “cooler.” Yesterday was certainly an active day for the officers, and it is to be hoped it was an effective day. The people are with them in their efforts to enforce the laws.*

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 6-7-1884 – 3



Frank Bonaventure Bolduc

Just a week later, in the **June 7, 1884**, edition of *The Florence Mining News*, Editor **Chase S. Osborn** reported the burning of Bolduc’s “bagnio” in detail, celebrating its destruction.

BOLDUC’S BAGNIO BURNED.

To Ashes on Last Friday Evening – “Mining News” Representatives the Only Witnesses of the Scene – The Fire Thought to be an Incentaryism – Arrest of Officers and the Probable Loss – What the Town Gains by the Destruction

The intense excitement prevalent in Florence on Friday last [May 30, 1884] over the arrest of a large number of lawless characters who have so long been a curse to this community, received a new impetus on Saturday morning [May 31, 1884] when the report became current that Bolduc’s bagnio had burned to ashes the previous evening.

As no alarm had been turned in, the news created a great surprise, and anxious groups seeking particulars of the burning thronged the streets. What created still greater surprise was the fact that no persons who had been at the scene while the fire raged could be found. However, two representatives of the MINING NEWS were at the scene within a quarter of an hour after the flames had first been seen, and succeeded in gathering the details of this happy destruction.

...

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 6-14-1884 – 4

Just a week after the **Bolduc bagnio** fire article, the **June 14, 1884**, edition of *The Florence Mining News* contained a detailed account of a street duel between **District Attorney Charles E. McIntosh** and **Sheriff James E. Readmon** which occurred on the corner of **Cyclops Street** and **Central Avenue** in the late afternoon on **June 9, 1884**.

DUEL!

***District Attorney McIntosh and Sheriff
Readmon, of Florence
County, Engage in
a
Disgraceful Street
Duel Last
Monday.***

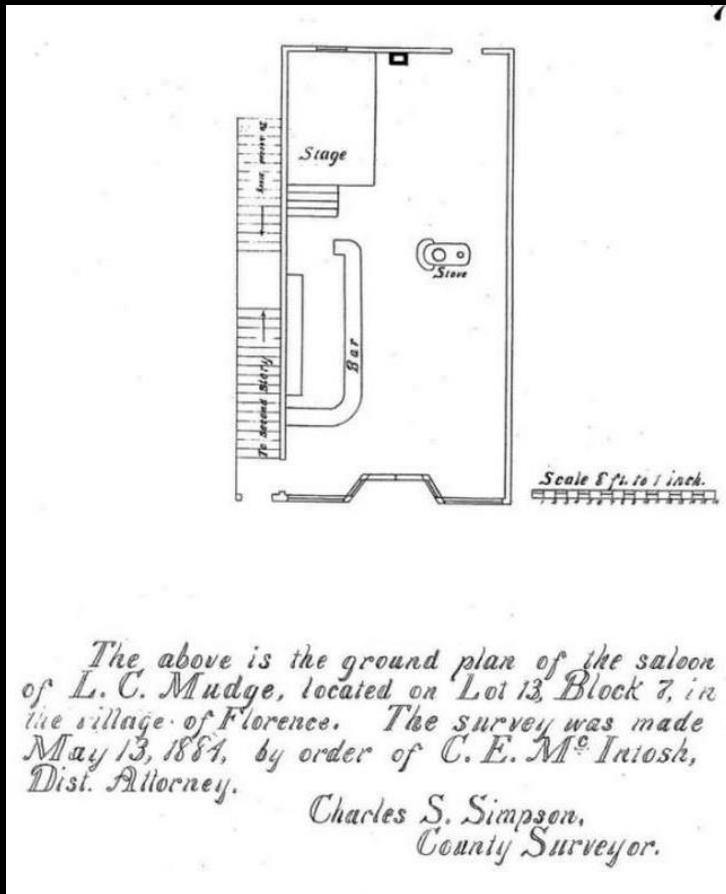
***Shots Exchanged With 38-
Calibre Smith & Wesson
Revolvers and the
Sheriff Thought to
Have Been Mor-
tally Wounded.***

***Both Men Arrested and Both Very
Properly asked to Resign, After
Disgracing Themselves,
Their Offices and
The Community***

***The Resignation of the District At-
torney Handed to Citizens' Com-
mittee – Condition of Read-
mon – An Exciting Time –
Harsh Measures, Which
it is Hoped Will Re-
sult Beneficially
to Florence's
Morals.***

FROM THE EXTRAS:
JUNE 9, 5:30 O'CLOCK P.M.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 9-12-1886



The above floorplan, dated May 13, 1884, shows Lewis C. Mudge's saloon, located on Lot 13, Block 7, in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin.

A fire at Mudge's building occurred early on Sunday morning, September 12, 1886, and was reported by Chase S. Osborn in the September 18, 1886 issue of *The Florence Mining News* as follows:

Mudge's "castle on the hill" was almost totally destroyed by fire, just after midnight, Sunday morning. The building was furnished, but had not been occupied for a couple of days. The contents were partially destroyed. An insurance of \$400 in the City of London, fully covered the loss of the building. John Elwood's barn had a narrow escape, but by a vigorous effort it was saved.

A war correspondent on the scene reports that His Royal Highness Mudge, who goes by the euphonious title of the "Bawdy House Preacher," because of his passing away from home as an evangelist and at home as a lecherous old hyena, was paralyzed at the time of the fire from too much contact with the seductive cup. He reclined prone upon a bed in his other den and looking out of the window saw the flames. Thinking it was the church, he gurgled "Blankety, blank, blank, let 'er burn."

Upon discovering it was his "shebang" in blazes, he tried to rise, but his muscular system would not obey his will and he was forced to be still, but sought relief in yelling: "Save my fiddle and my book; Oh! cut my heart, cut my heart." His book is an alleged exposure of vice in which he assumes the leading role of viciousness.

The fire department succeeded in getting a stream on the same night of the blaze.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 2-5-1887 – 1

The following detailed account of a chase of three runaway “soiled doves” from Iron River’s Jackson House by Iron County Sheriff McLean and Deputy McQuown, resulting in their capture in Florence, provides insight into law enforcement pursuits, as reported in the February 5, 1887, edition of *The Florence Mining News*, as follows:

AN EXCITING CHASE.

Sheriff McLean and Deputy McQuown, of Iron County, Drive Thirty Miles in Hot Pursuit of Escaping Prisoners and Capture them at Florence – An Alleged High-handed Act in Which Well-known Men are Said to be Implicated.

Sheriff McLean and Deputy McQuown, of Iron county [Michigan], were in town on Wednesday in hot pursuit of a trio of runaway “soiled doves.” The particulars of the affair are best given in the words of Deputy McQuown, who stated them as follows to a MINING NEWS representative:

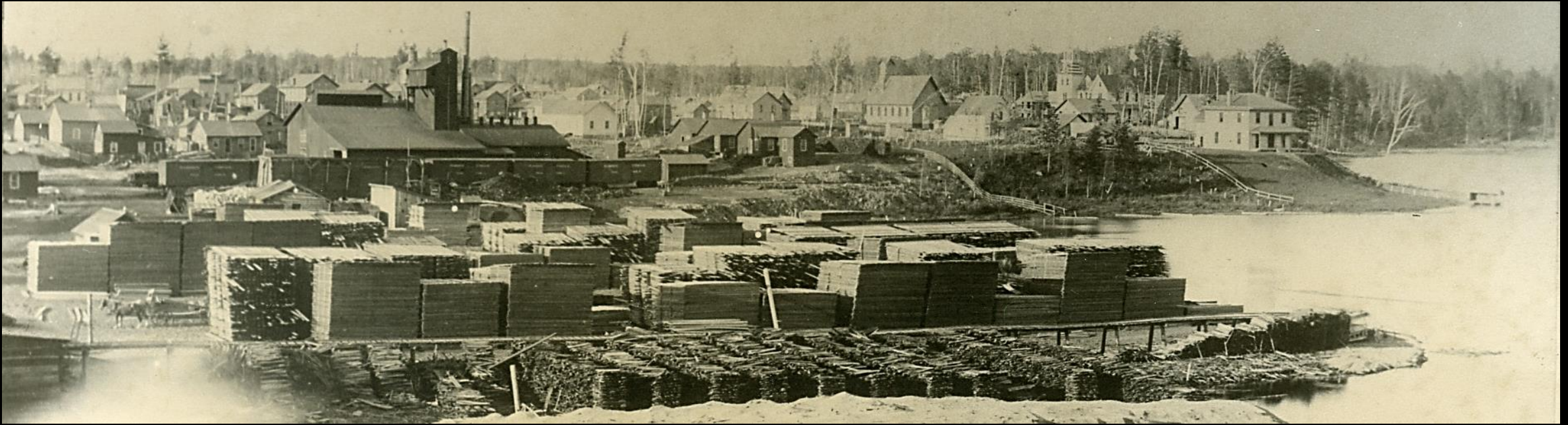
“I see you are bound to get at the true inwardness of the affair, so here goes for a straight story. A few days ago we raided what is known as the Jackson house, near Iron River. Among those arrested were three women who gave as their names Mrs. Ella LePage, May Dasher and Frankie Howard.

They were examined before Judge Brown, and although George Buckley appeared to defend them, and called Judge Grant a crank, skinflint and other pet names, they were bound over in the sum of \$150 each, which they failed to secure.

Owing to poor jail facilities, they were quartered under guard at Alex. Quirt’s place. Tuesday evening [February 1, 1887], while M.B. Waite, who was deputized to assist the sheriff, was on guard, the females, by a ruse, in which it is stated they were assisted by George Buckley and Thomas H. Flannagan, the town marshal, made their escape. They took a team and were driven post haste to Florence by Amy La Fontaine, who claims to be a champion roller skater from Marinette or some other place.

We soon scented the chase, and Sheriff McLean and myself started in pursuit, at about eight o’clock, with a heavy bob sleigh and a heavy team of horses, the best we could get, driven by Mike Corcoran. Although the prisoners had quite a start and the drive was one of full thirty miles, we arrived at Florence only about fifteen minutes after their arrival, having made the trip in about five hours. And this, too, with two or three mishaps. Once we broke a clevis and had to make a leather one with a piece of line. Once while going at a lively gait we came to a sudden turn in the road. Failing to make the turn by approved rules, we shot off into the woods, astride stumps, which compelled us to unhitch and take the box off the sled, before we could extricate it.

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 2-5-1887 – 2



Taken in 1883 by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, pioneer Menominee Range photographer, the above photograph shows Whittlesey's Sawmill and a portion of the town of Florence, Wisconsin, in the background. The Presbyterian Church with its steeple is visible to the right of center. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

At Florence we found the party at the National Hotel and placed them in custody. They quietly consented to arrest and were willing to go back without the formality of a requisition.

La Fontaine, the driver, says the team for the women was ordered by George Buckley. He does not implicate Flannagan, and the latter says he had nothing to do with it.

But just the same he came down early Wednesday morning to see if the prisoners escaped all right, and it was he who led Waite away from guard duty, so as to give the prisoners a chance to escape.

We intend to swear out criminal warrants for Buckley, Flannagan and La Fontaine and see whether such high-handed attempts to cheat the law will be tolerated.”

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – MINA – 1

In his book Herbert F. Larson, Sr., described Alzamina “Mina” Gertrude Mudge, daughter of Lewis Croin Mudge, as follows:

In order to drum up business when times were slack, Mina made side trips to the surrounding towns of Crystal Falls, Iron River and Iron Mountain. It was on these occasions that she was able to show the world what a stunning-looking woman she was. She wore the latest style clothes which were purchased in Milwaukee where she went at least twice a year. They were generally either black or purple, which, when she wore them on her well-proportioned body, matched her complexion. A large brimmed hat trimmed with beautiful ostrich feathers, and a brightly colored parasol usually made up the rest of her attire.

She would be met at the railroad station by the finest carriage in town, which transported her and her maid up one side of the main street and then down the other. She visited as many saloons as possible. When she boarded the return train, she always had a crowd of hilarious young men accompany her back to Florence. As a rule, they had plenty of money to spend.

After the fancy houses and gambling dens were driven out of Florence proper, Mina, who was about a mile from town, was able to stay in business for many years. This was possible because she knew how to get along with the authorities.

Alzamina Gertrude “Mina” (Mudge) Bolduc was 22 years old when she posed at J.J. Eskil’s Studio in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, in 1886. [Dale Bomberg]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – MINA – 2

She was once arrested on a charge which she claimed was false. The town hired Flannigan, a lawyer, who put her in jail. She hired the man who had put her in jail to defend her and he immediately got her out.

She gave liberally to all the churches and civic doings and during the panic of 1893, and as long as she stayed in Florence, she sent out anonymous baskets to the needy. She not only acted as a banker for lumberjacks, but when they needed a little money to get home or back to work, she always provided the necessary cash.

No teen-age boys were allowed. She discouraged violent language. Cigarette smoking was just making its appearance and the lumberjacks, who preferred chewing tobacco, or pipe smoking, called the cigarettes “coffin nails” or “pimp sticks”.

Mina herself was honest and permitted no one to be rolled. Her girls, it is said, were well-treated and many remained with her for long periods of time. Since they could always come and go as they wished, there was always a big turnover.

Many of the girls met their husbands there and some, after they were married, carried on at Mudge’s, while their husbands were in the woods. When they had accumulated a good stake between them they set up housekeeping. Around 1905, Mina tired of the business and left Florence for Milwaukee where she opened a seafood restaurant.

Alzamina Gertrude “Mina” (Mudge) Bolduc (1862-1930) posed for this portrait at J.J. Eskil’s Studio in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, when John M. Stromsten was operator in 1887 or later. [Dale Bomberg]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 2-5-1887

FORCIBLE ABDUCTION.

A VERY EXCITING AFFAIR IN FLORENCE.

Frank Bolduc, a Well-known Character, Breaks Into the House, where His Wife is Living and Steals His Three-Year-Old Child – Unsuccessful Efforts to Capture Him – Damage Done by a Terrible Windstorm – Other Local Matters.

This village was thrown into a state of great excitement on Thursday by a most daring case of abduction, a three-year-old child of Mrs. Frank Bolduc [Mina Mudge] having been forcibly dragged from its bed and kidnapped by its father, Frank Bolduc, at about 3 o'clock in the morning.

Mrs. Bolduc, who has not lived with her husband for some time past, has resided with her father, L.C. Mudge, corner of Olive Avenue and Cyclops Street, since February last.

At the hour indicated Bolduc, accompanied by Fred Gage, Jim Eagan, Jim Moriarty and Joe Venie, all of Iron Mountain, drove up to Mudge's residence, whereupon Bolduc broke into the back door and made his way to his wife's bed-room [sic – bedroom]. The fellow was armed with four revolvers. He leveled one of the shooting-irons at the woman, at the same time ordering her to get up and dress herself and her child and threatening to shoot her if she disobeyed. The frightened woman obeyed the command, but managed to effect her escape.



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 12-10-1887

An assault on a constable at **Mudge's brothel** was reported in the **December 10, 1887** edition of *The Florence Mining News*.

DISGRACEFUL DOINGS.

CONSTABLE G.H. KEYES VICIOUSLY ASSAULTED.

Mudge's Den the Scene of the Assault – Dominick Welch, His Assailant, Under Arrest – A Warrant Issued for the Arrest of the Keepers and Inmates, but is Subsequently Withdrawn – A Woman Escapes from Welch's Den – Her History.

Another disgraceful affair occurred at the **Mudge ranch**, in the woods north of the city, on Tuesday afternoon [December 6, 1887], **Constable Geo. H. Keyes** having been viciously assaulted by **Dominick Welch**, the keeper of an equally notorious den of iniquity at the iron bridge, Menominee River, this county.

It appears that for a week or so prior to Tuesday [December 6, 1887] afternoon's disturbance, a youth of 18 years, the son of a hard-working and respectable widow of Commonwealth, had mysteriously absented himself from his home. It transpired that the lad had gone to **Mudge's place** and remained there during the period indicated.

...

Alzamina Gertrude “Mina” (Mudge) Bolduc (1862-1930) – J.J. Eskil's Studio in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, John M. Stromsten, operator; – 1887 or later. [Dale Bomberg]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1-14-1888

A lengthy article in the January 14, 1888 edition of *The Florence Mining News* involved a rendezvous in Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, between Mina Mudge (1862-1930), using the alias Mat Wood, and her paramour, Sheriff John W. “Jack” Molloy (1858-1915), using the alias Frank Dorney.

AN OFFICIAL’S DISGRACE.

He is Arrested at Neenah on a Most Serious Charge.

The Twin City News, of Neenah, in its issue of Thursday [January 12, 1888] gives the following particulars of the arrest in that city of a Florence County official and a notorious woman of this township, for a very serious and disgraceful offense.

“The south bound train yesterday afternoon [January 11, 1888] brought to the city a very prepossessing young lady who registered at the Russell House as Mat Wood, of Marinette. On the same train also arrived a gentleman who likewise repaired to our leading hotel and inscribed his autograph as Frank Dorney, of Marinette.

Nothing strange was thought of the circumstance until about midnight when there appeared upon the scene the husband of the lady mentioned, Frank Bolduc[,] of Florence, Wis., from which place the truant wife and her ardent admirer had flown. Mr. Bolduc secured the services of Officer Sawyer and John Neary, and the trio proceeded to the hotel, armed with a warrant for the arrest of the festive “Mat” and her paramour “Dorney.”



...

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1-21-1888

Another lengthy article in the [January 21, 1888](#) edition of *The Florence Mining News* the following week fully describes the affair between [Mina Mudge \(1862-1930\)](#) and [Florence County Sheriff John W. “Jack” Molloy \(1858-1915\)](#), including the involvement of Mina’s husband [Frank Bolduc \(1848/1849-1923\)](#).

HERE’S A PRETTY MESS.

THE SHERIFF OF FLORENCE COUNTY IN TROUBLE.

The News of His Arrest Causes a Profound Sensation in Florence – Mr. Molloy Denies the Allegation of Frank Bolduc, the Complaining Witness – Additional Accounts of the Affair from Neenah.

The news of the arrest of J.W. Molloy, sheriff of Florence County, at the Russell House, Neenah, last week, on a charge of adultery, created a decided sensation in this city. The arrest, as was stated in last week’s issue of the MINING NEWS, was made at the instance [sic – insistence] of Frank Bolduc, who claims to have caught the sheriff and his (Bolduc’s) wife occupying the same room at the hotel at 3 o’clock on the morning of Wednesday of last week. It is also said that the chief of police of Neenah, another police officer and a newspaper man were witnesses to the affair.

Whether the accusation be true or false, Mr. Molloy was held for trial in the sum of \$500, and the woman, Mrs. Bolduc, better known as Mina Mudge, in the sum of \$250, for their appearance at the next term of the Circuit Court.



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1-21-1888

Also appearing in the [January 21, 1888](#) edition of *The Florence Mining News* was a raid on the brothels in the Florence area, including [Mina Mudge's ranch](#) in the woods, as follows:

RAIDING THE DENS.

The Authorities Determined to Repress Vice in the Town.

The authorities of Florence have commenced the good work of cleaning out all the low, degraded dives in this township, and each and every one of the places which have defied or ignored Chairman Godshall's famous closing order will be promptly proceeded against, by the arrest of the keepers and the male and female prostitutes as fast as sufficient evidence can be procured to warrant a conviction.

Mina Mudge's ranch in the woods was raided last Saturday night [January 14, 1888], and six inmates, three men and three women, the former strangers in Florence, were gathered in. The raid was made by Constable Van Marter and a posse of five special constables. The gang made no resistance whatever.



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 2-18-1888

Two weeks later, in the February 18, 1888 edition of *The Florence Mining News* the familiar names of Frank Bolduc and Mina Mudge appeared, involving the custody of their 4-year-old son, Louis.

ANOTHER SENSATION.

Mina Mudge and Frank Bolduc Indulge in one of Their Accustomed Episodes.

The following Green Bay dispatch to the *Evening Wisconsin*, under date of February 13, is of peculiar local interest:

“A man by the name of Bolduc got on the train at Appleton Saturday [February 11, 1888] with a child – a boy 2 years old.

It seems that Bolduc’s wife had been given a divorce from him by an Outagamie court and awarded the custody of the child. He had taken the boy intending to go north. The mother and District Attorney Spencer got on the same train, first having telegraphed to the chief-of-police at Kaukauna to be on hand and arrest the alleged kidnapper. The attempt was made but the train pulled out, taking Policeman Dick Conley with it.

The party decided to come to Green Bay and deposit the child in the Catholic Orphan Asylum at Robinsonville, eighteen miles east of here. The parties went their [sic – there] overland, but when they arrived the woman refused to do as she had agreed and the party returned to this city in time to take the train for the South, intending to go back to Appleton.



...

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1-19-1889

Mina Mudge again made the headlines the following week in the January 19, 1889 edition of *The Florence Mining News*, as follows:

MINA MUDGE ROBBED.

THE NOTORIOUS WOMAN LOSES \$350 WHILE ON A SPREE.

She is Thrown Down and the Money Taken from Her Stocking – Mike Dolan and John Bowers Held for the Crime.

Mina Mudge, queen of the demi monde [sic – demimonde – class of women considered to be of doubtful morality and social standing] of Florence County and keeper of a notorious den in the woods near this city, was robbed of \$350 in McDevitt's saloon between 4 and 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and three lumbermen named Mike Dolan, John Bowers, alias John Smith, and William Parry, were arrested half an hour later, charged with the offense.

It appears that Mina and two of her girls arrived in Florence on the 3 o'clock train yesterday afternoon, from Crystal Falls, where they had been on a sort of pleasure excursion. They visited one or two saloons upon their return and finally brought up at McDevitt's at the hour indicated. The women drank and treated the crowd once or twice, Mina paying for the liquor out of a bag of silver.



...

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 4-6-1889

Mina Mudge was arrested on a charge of assault with intent to kill according to a lengthy article which appeared in the [April 6, 1889](#) edition of *The Florence Mining News*.

UNDER \$1,000 BONDS.

Mina Mudge Viciously Assaults One of Her Inmates.

Mina Mudge, a notorious courtesan of this town, is under arrest on a charge of assault with intent to kill. The woman, who, in defiance of the constituted authorities, runs a den of infamy in the woods immediately north of the city, got into an altercation, a few days ago, with one of her girls, who is known by the name of May Johnson, the latter, it is said, received a severe pounding.

The girl made a complaint in Justice Bush's court, and the justice issued an assault and battery warrant against the Mudge woman. The latter was arrested, and, on Thursday afternoon, paid a fine of \$5 and the costs – \$15.60.

Shortly after the conclusion of the trial in Commonwealth, May Johnson returned to Mina's den for the purpose of securing her personal effects, etc., when, it is alleged, she was set upon and unmercifully beaten by the infuriated prostitute. The unfortunate young woman finally succeeded in escaping from the place and subsequently lodged a complaint before Justice Bush.



...

EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 4-13-1889 – 1

The message conveyed by *The Florence Mining News* editor and the community in the above articles was evidently heard loud and clear by the Florence County district attorney, as evidenced by the lengthy report which appeared in the [April 13, 1889](#) edition of *The Florence Mining News* the following week.

ORDERED TO CLOSE UP.

THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY DONS OFFICIAL WAR PAINT.

He Commands the Keepers of Disreputable Dens to Quit Their Nefarious Practices – The Boss Cyprian Vamoses the Ranch and the Others Will Follow Suit – The Woman Under Heavy Bonds.

The houses of prostitution which have flourished so long in the city and county of Florence, in bold defiance of the laws of the State of Wisconsin, have got to go. District Attorney Abbott and Sheriff Parmenter have issued an ultimatum to that effect, and they are thoroughly in earnest in their determination to suppress every bawdy house within their jurisdiction.

[Continued on next slide.]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 4-13-1889 – 2

The following notice was served on Monday upon Mina Mudge, the keeper of the most important place of the kind in this county and probably one of the most notorious ranches in the state:

*OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
FOR FLORENCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,
FLORENCE, April 8, 1889.*

To Mina Mudge, Florence, Wisconsin:

You are hereby notified that unless you and all parties connected with your house of prostitution leave and remain out of Florence County on or before the first day of May, A.D., 1889, we, the undersigned, shall proceed against and prosecute you and all the inmates of your house to the full extent of the law.

***A.M. PARMENTER, J.E. ABBOTT**
Sheriff. District Attorney.*

[NOTE: A Cyprian can be defined as a lewd or licentious person, especially a prostitute.]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 5-8-1889

Lewis C. Mudge's embarrassing antics on the streets of Chicago, reported in the *Chicago Herald*, were reprinted in the May 11, 1889 edition of *The Florence Mining News*, and then copied in the May 16, 1889 edition of Iron Mountain's *The Menominee Range*, as follows:

Old Mudge in Chicago.

The following account of a sensational episode created by old man Mudge in the streets of Chicago, taken from Wednesday's issue [May 8, 1889] of the Herald, of that city, will prove of local interest, inasmuch as the man is pretty well known in this community:

“Louis [sic – Lewis] C. Mudge, a Michigan hotel keeper, came to Chicago yesterday, sampled all the different brands of bock beer and then laid in a flask of whisky, which he put in his hip pocket in case of an emergency. For fear he might be accosted by confidence men, Mr. Mudge had provided himself with two large revolvers, which he cocked and placed in his pockets. After visiting the last saloon, the rural visitor found Madison street a hard road to travel, and at the corner of Clarke he reeled, slipped, and fell with a crash to the pavement. There were two pistol reports, the screams of passing women and the odor of whisky. Where the bullets went no one seemed to know, but no one was hurt, not even Mr. Mudge, who lay on the sidewalk until Officer Birmingham picked him up and locked him up at the Armory, on the charge of carrying concealed weapons.”



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 6-8-1889 – 1

Mina Mudge wrote a letter to Robert P. Tuten, editor of Iron Mountain's *The Menominee Range*, which was published in the June 8, 1889 edition of *The Florence Mining News*, as follows:

Mina Writes Editor Tuten a Letter.

Iron Mountain Range: Mina [Mudge] has been in the moral gutters of Iron Mountain, Florence and other places, where she has lived so long that we did not think her capable of the fastidiousness displayed below, even though the statement that she had added to the pollution of the moral gutters of Chicago should be an error. If this wayward woman really intends to come back to Iron Mountain to engage in the same business she followed when a resident of this city before, we think she is contemplating a step that she will regret if she carries out her intention. Mina does not appear to be anxious to reveal her present place of abode, it not being mentioned in the communication published below, but the envelope is postmarked Florence, Wisconsin:

[Continued on the next slide.]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 6-8-1889 – 2

MR. EDITOR – Dear Sir: A clipping from your most valuable paper has been sent to me, wherein I am accused of the most outrageous lies (I believe) ever published. I wish it distinctly understood that I am not in the moral gutters of Chicago, as you term it; furthermore the infamous lie – I have had a child. Have not been near Chicago, and am not at present within many a hundred mile [sic – miles] of the place; and again it is the first I knew I was banished from Iron Mountain or Florence. Am satisfied I can return to either place whenever I feel so disposed. I have murdered no one, and more, I owe nothing. I intend to return, and, when I do, will not sneak back.

In regard to my father's (Mr. Mudge) little episode that happened to him while in Chicago – the same is liable to happen to the best of men. Am positive he paid for all he called for and did not ask for any assistance from any of the respectability of Iron Mountain or Florence. I am sorry that you editors or correspondents can find nothing else to do but razzle-dazzle a woman with your infamous lying trash. Oh, Iron Mountain, Iron Mountain! If you did not have an iron bottom you would sink, good, moral city. Respectfully.

MINA MUDGE.



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 8-19-1889

In the [August 25, 1889](#) edition of *The Florence Mining News* a brief article noted the Florence County authorities raided three houses of ill fame on [August 19, 1889](#), as follows:

Raded [sic – Raided] the Ranches.

Three disputable [sic – disreputable] houses, kept by Mina Mudge, Jennie Gates and a woman known as “White Wings,” were “pulled” on Monday night [August 19, 1889] by Constable Keyes, Deputies Kinnear, and Dana and George Parmenter, on warrants sworn out by Sheriff A.M. Parmenter. Frankie Saxton, Sadie Melton and Belle Stevens, inmates of Mudge’s ranch, and Ida Netzel, an inmate of Jennie Gates’ joint, were each fined \$10 and the costs by Justice Huff. Sarah Johnson, alias “White Wings,” and husband were each taxed the same amounts by Justice Coleman.



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 8-19-1889

In the [December 7, 1889](#) edition of *The Florence Mining News* an article noted four houses of ill fame were raided by Florence County authorities on [December 5, 1889](#), and an “abandoned woman” [prostitute] was arrested at the depot on [December 6, 1889](#), as follows:

Law-Breakers Punished.

Four houses of prostitution, kept by Frankie Saxton (Mudge’s), “White Wings,” Pete Bigelow and Nellie Graves, were raided by Sheriff Parmenter and Constable Keyes Thursday night [[December 5, 1889](#)]. Six female and four male inmates were arrested and taken before Judge Coleman for trial. Eight of the gang paid fines ranging from \$4 to \$10 each and two of the men were discharged. Lewd women have become exceedingly bold about town of late, and this is the principal cause of the raid.

An abandoned woman named Jennie McCall, hailing from Pike, Wis., made a public exhibition of herself by using foul and indecent language while perambulating the depot platform, yesterday afternoon, and was run in by Sheriff Parmenter. The creature was booked for drunk and disorderly conduct and fined \$5 and the costs. She remained in jail until 7 o’clock last evening, when the fine and costs were paid by sympathizing local Cyprians.

[NOTE: A Cyprian can be defined as a lewd or licentious person, especially a prostitute.



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1900

On the 1900 United States census for Florence County, Wisconsin, **Mina Mudge**, born in January 1862, in English Canada (Ontario), was listed as a divorced 38-year-old white female who had immigrated to the United States in 1874, married in 1898 and had been married for two years. She was the mother of two children, both of whom were living, and was boarding in the home of **Belle Adams**. **Mina’s children resided with her mother in Benton Harbor, Berrien County, Michigan.**

Belle Adams was listed as the head of household in the 1900 United States census for Florence County, Wisconsin. Born in August 1876, she was a 24-year-old married white female born in Michigan, married in 1891 and the mother of two living children. Others boarding with Belle Adams were: **Maud Mudge**, born in February, 1879, a 21-year-old single white female born in Wisconsin, the **daughter of Louis and Matilda Mudge listed in the 1880 United States census and a sister of Mina Mudge**; **Stella Smith**, born in July, 1878, a 22-year-old single white female born in Pennsylvania; **Dorris Smith**, born in May, 1879, a 21-year-old single white female born in Michigan; **Kate Vassar**, born in December, 1861, a 39-year-old married white female born in French Canada (Quebec), married in about 1880 and the mother of three children, one living, who immigrated to the United States in 1884; and **Patrik [sic – Patrick] G. Ryan**, born in March, 1844, a 56-year-old married white male born in English Canada (Ontario), who immigrated to the United States in 1889 and was married that same year.

With the number of females residing in this household, and given Mina Mudge’s long-standing history of prostitution, it is likely that this “boarding house” might have been a house of ill repute.



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1900 & 1905

- ❖ On the 1900 U.S. Census for Benton Harbor Ward 3-4, Berrien County, Michigan, **Matilda Mudge**, a 54-year-old widow born in Canada East (Ontario) in April, 1846, who immigrated to the United States in 1870, was the head of a household which included: **Maud J. Mudge**, her single 21-year-old daughter, born in Wisconsin [sic] in February, 1879 [sic]; **Louis M. Bolduc**, her single 17-year-old grandson, born in Wisconsin on June 12, 1883; and **Roy Monfort**, her single 11-year-old grandson, born in Michigan in July, 1889. Berrien County is located in the southwest corner of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula.
- ❖ On the 1905 Wisconsin State Census for Florence, Florence County, **Mina G. Mudge**, a 43-year-old single, white female born in Canada in 1862, was listed as head of the household. Others residing in the household were **Lela B. Noel**, a 20-year-old married white female boarder born in Wisconsin in about 1885; **Mary C. Ruell**, 20-year-old single white female boarder born in Wisconsin in about 1885; **Lista [sic] A. Hatfield**, a 39-year-old divorced white female boarder born in Indiana in about 1867; and **Mabel E. Newell**, a 30-year-old divorced white female boarder born in Michigan in about 1875. Again, it is likely that this “boarding house” could have been a house of ill repute given the number of females listed.

Alzamina Gertrude “Mina” (Mudge) Bolduc (1862-1930) posed for this portrait at J.J. Eskil’s Studio in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, when John M. Stromsten was operator in 1887 or later. [Dale Bomberg]



EARLY FLORENCE – THE “OLD MAN” MUDGE ERA – 1895-1905

In his book Herbert F. Larson, Sr., recorded Old Man Mudge’s prolonged absences from Florence and also documented the approximate date “Old Man” Mudge dissolved his partnership with his daughter **Mina**.

There were times when Mudge would be gone for long periods of time. Where he went, he told no one, but he was often heard to remark:

“I’ve just got to take these sojourns, so as not to let down my good parishes who depend upon me to preach the gossip [sic] to them.”

*There are others who said Mudge was out opening new establishments, making periodic inspections of his old ones and greasing authorities who might cause trouble. This went on for quite a few years until his rheumatism bothered him so that he had to leave the climate. **The partnership broke up around 1895 when Mina took over as sole owner.***

In Herbert F. Larson, Sr.’s last reference to **Mina** in his book notes the following:

Around 1905, Mina tired of the business and left Florence for Milwaukee where she opened a seafood restaurant.

No official record of Mina operating a seafood restaurant in Milwaukee has been documented to date. Alzamina Gertrude “Mina” (Mudge) Hoffman died March 11, 1930, in Benton Harbor, Berrien County, Michigan.

Alzamina Gertrude “Mina” (Mudge) Hoffman (1862 to 1930) probably posed for this studio portrait later in life. [Ancestry]



“LITTLE HURLEY” IN AURORA AND HOMESTEAD – 4-13-1925

Raids on “Little Hurley” and the area around Aurora and Homestead in Florence County, Wisconsin, were recorded in the April 13, 1925 edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, as follows:

Week-End Vice Clean-Up Made in Florence County

“Little Hurley” Again Among Places Raided

Going After Undesirables, Says Sells.

“Little Hurley,” just a shack across the Michigan boundary line near Twin Falls which was raided three weeks ago by the Florence county authorities in a liquor clean-up, was the scene of another raid Saturday night when several gallons of alleged moonshine and wine were confiscated.

...
Jean Morgan, better known as “Escanaba Jennie”, who was arrested early Saturday morning in Marinette on a charge of being an inmate of a house of ill repute in the “Little Red House” raid, was also taken into custody. She was fined \$100 and costs when brought before the Florence commissioner and told to leave the county. Her arrest in Florence county followed her release on bonds in Marinette.

Jennie’s friend, Edmond Moore, was assessed \$25 and costs. Several others were found in the place but were released when it was said Moore told the authorities that “she is my friend.”

George Van Buxton, believed to be a fictitious name and said to be the proprietor of the “Homestead Gold Mine”, located about a half mile south of the Wisconsin hall, on the Homestead road, was fined \$50 and costs for conducting a disorderly house [house of ill repute]. George Frazer, George Andrews and Marion Rothbourn, an inmate, were assessed the same amount and ordered out of the county.

Pay \$100 Fines

Edward Potter and his wife, Eunice, who it was charged, conducted a disorderly house near the “Homestead Gold Mine”, each paid a fine of \$100 and costs.

Another alleged disorderly house, said to be operated by Elmer Boyd, at Aurora, near Niagara, was also raided by the Florence officials. Boyd pleaded guilty to the charge and was fined \$100 and costs.

George Stocker, of Tipler, Wis., 20 miles northwest of Florence, was also hauled into jail on a similar charge. He gave over \$50 and costs.

Commenting on the clean-up District Attorney Sells declared here today that Florence county will get rid of all undesirable characters. Numerous reports have reached his office, he said, that the laws were being violated in many ways and that a clean-up was the only course to pursue.

IRON MOUNTAIN'S "THE MIDWAY" IN THE TWENTIES – 1900-1910

The Midway, an area stretching for three or four blocks on East and West Hughitt Street in downtown Iron Mountain, was infamous during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and first three decades of the twentieth century, especially during the "Roaring Twenties" and prohibition.

The following item under the headline "Late Local Jots" appeared in the [June 30, 1894](#) edition of Iron Mountain's *The Range-Tribune* and to date is the earliest documented mention of The Midway:

Iron Mountain's Midway is rapidly becoming famous – and in some respects infamous.

Apparently, The Midway's reputation was already somewhat tarnished, and its notoriety was spreading well before the turn of the twentieth century.

The area was often used for traveling carnivals.

The Milwaukee Saloon, 100 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain, Michigan, ca.1900-1910 [Menominee Range Historical Museum]



IRON MOUNTAIN'S "THE MIDWAY" IN THE TWENTIES – 1900-1910

In this photograph, probably dating between 1900 and 1910, a beer wagon stopped in front of the Milwaukee Saloon, 100 East Hughitt Street, Iron Mountain. Note the young woman sitting in a second-story window, possibly a "working girl" on The Midway.

In 1892 William Graf operated his saloon. By 1902 John Vercella was the saloonkeeper. By 1905 and still in 1907 Edward and Annie Shea operated the saloon.

By 1925 Claude and Edna Burby ran a restaurant here. Claude also worked as a bouncer and bartender for George "Reddy" Meehan, who operated one of the most infamous saloons on The Midway with his wife Dolly next door at 104 East Hughitt Street. By 1913 the Meehans operated a lunch counter and sold soft drinks at this location. Dolly Meehan was a well-known madam, and her husband George was involved in the illicit sale of liquor and more during the prohibition era. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]



IRON MOUNTAIN'S "THE MIDWAY" IN THE TWENTIES – 1959-1972

Dating between 1959 and 1972, this photograph shows the north side of the 100 Block of West Hughitt Street and is the only image of The Midway found to date. These buildings were demolished in about 1973, when the Iron Mountain Post Office expanded.

Buildings, from right to left: 106, Antonio Pellegrino, Tailor & Clothier, 1959-1961; vacant, 1963-1964; 110, Tony Izzo & Sons (Ralph, Carl and Andri), awnings, 1959-1972; 112, vacant, 1959-1963; Dorothy's Beaute Salon (Mrs. Dorothy J. Oien), 1964-1970; vacant, 1971; no listing, 1972-1973; 114, Roy's Swap Shop (LeRoy Bastian), used furniture, 1959-1966; vacant, 1967-1971; no listing 1972-1973; 116, G & G Lunch (George M. Bodelin), restaurant, 1959-1964; G & G Lunch (Mrs. Harriet M. and Theodore J. Luciani), 1966; G & G Lunch (Willie P. Erickson/Conrad Willie Erickson), 1967-1971; no listing, 1972; 118, no listing, 1959; Anna Bryla, boarding house, 1961; vacant, 1963-1971; no listing, 1972; 120, vacant, 1959; Popeye's Café (Frank Rucinski), 1961; vacant, 1963; Sandy's Pizzeria (Donald B. Hunter), 1964; vacant, 1966-1967-1969-1970-1971; The Coffee Cup, 1972. [William J. Cummings]



IRON MOUNTAIN'S "THE MIDWAY" IN THE TWENTIES – 5-3-1926 – 1

A major clean-up campaign occurred in Dickinson County in the [spring of 1926](#). Raids staged by Sheriff Frank Cleveland, Iron Mountain Chief of Police Rudolph Freeman and Prosecuting Attorney Ray E. MacAllister, together with federal agents and city policemen, as well as private investigators, really cracked down on gambling, prostitution and prohibition.

The [first two weeks of May](#) were particularly intense, especially on The Midway in Iron Mountain.

In the [May 3, 1926](#) edition of *The Iron Mountain News* a lengthy article on prohibition and prostitution appeared under the following headline:

34 WARRANTS FOR RUM ROW

A segment of this article appeared under the following subheadline:

Midway and Vice Haunts Jolted In Biggest Booze Clean-up Staged In City.

Under a portion of this article, prostitution was attacked, as follows:

Vice Conditions Bad

Unparalleled conditions of vice and prostitution were revealed, principally by a fifth operative who did not take part in collecting the liquor evidence. A large number of girls between the ages of 16 and 18, lips and cheeks heavily rouged, were found to be ranging the streets, eagerly accepting chance "pick-ups" and stepping out for a whirl along the tinsel path. More hardened sisters, their coarse features plainly bespeaking their calling, roamed for their prey or carried on their price labeled licentiousness in established red light brothels.

The old, old practice was still prevalent in some joints. The lumberjack fresh from the woods with his pay was served his liquor free and easy until befuddled. Then he joined one of the "girls" upstairs, who frisked him. Broke and drunk, he was thrown out on the sidewalk, with no more perhaps than a new pair of shoes and a fuzzy taste to show for his winter's work.

Places were discovered where girls and boys in their teens – or hardly out of them – drunk and reckless, were admitted without question into bedrooms. Rooms in other joints were rented with or without, mien host often stealing in during the small hours of the morning to relieve his guests of their valuables.

IRON MOUNTAIN'S "THE MIDWAY" IN THE TWENTIES – 5-3-1926 – 2

Generous Sometimes.

Sometimes an old soak was doled out a shot of booze free when he tottered downstairs in the morning and begged for a bracer to steady his quivering nerves. This gift was even more generously forthcoming if the recipient couldn't remember what became of the money he thought he had when he entered the night before.

More often the sidewalk treatment was administered, especially if business was rushing and there was little time to waste on bums.

The tale of the Midway has long been notorious, but it is doubtful if it ever before reached such lurid proportions. Evidence was even disclosed of a dope ring, purveying to unfortunate addicts slipping on the last plunge into the depths. The details of this have been more closely guarded, with developments probable later. Enough is known, however, to convince officials that the flotsam and jetsam of humanity that came here when thousands of others were settling in the city during the period of the Ford boom is in many respects bestial and must be expelled.

Girls Leave Town.

The first drive against organized prostitution came about two weeks ago, when raids were staged by Chief of Police Freeman and Prosecutor MacAllister. But as has happened so frequently, a tip preceded the officers and they found the usual rendezvous of vice deserted. Instead of relaxing, they continued their unexpected visits and the alarm was spread as only the Midway knows how to spread an alarm that retreat was the course of wisdom.

Outgoing trains took many of the Midway's girls to other haunts. Others fled across the border line until "these damn police quit tagging us." The remainder scurried to adequate hiding places and there carried on in subdued and quiet manner their illicit conduct.

It was generally agreed along the Midway that "things must be tightened up." Scouts were sent out to learn what was brewing and brought back only vague and unsatisfactory reports. The Midway could feel something impending, but could not fathom what it was.

It was one of the few times it ever found itself in such a fix.

...

But the clean-up today is expected to be a serious setback. It will require some time for the Midway to recuperate and offer again its crimson orgies, if it ever does. Liquor there will be, but it will be sold with utmost stealth; the red lights may burn, but behind a mask. The big street has had the kick taken out of it and is reduced to one half of one per cent.

“LITTLE HURLEY” IN HOMESTEAD AND AURORA – 10-1-1926

“Little Hurley” again appeared in the columns of the October 1, 1926 edition of *The Iron Mountain News* in a lengthy article containing considerable detailed information pertaining to illicit liquor trafficking and prostitution in nearby Wisconsin under the headline below:

***Uncover Huge Beer Cache As “Hurley” Raids Continue
DEPUTIES DIG LIQUOR STORE FROM HIDING
Fifteen Kegs Found And Searchers Send For Assistance
WARRANT FOR “RED”
Three Girls Fined; “Dapper Dan” Bound Over For Trial.***

A small fortune, at prevailing bootleg prices, was uncovered at about 11 o'clock this morning by Sheriff Clarence White of Florence county, and Deputies Mike Vassar and Buck White, when they rammed their shovels into a cache of beer in a sawdust pile beneath the “Tourist Inn,” more familiarly known as “Reddy’s” or “Meehan’s” near Twin Falls, on the Wisconsin side of the Menominee river.

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of George “Reddy” Meehan, alleged owner of the “Tourist’s [sic] Inn,” Jay Miller, alleged owner of “Birch’s Place,” and John Potchick, alleged owner of the “Pine Grove.” They are charged with liquor law violations and keeping of houses of ill-fame.

In the October 6, 1926 edition of *The Iron Mountain News*, more raids in Florence County, Wisconsin, were documented, including “another place in the woods” – a house of ill repute located near Aurora, under the following headline:

***FLORENCE COUNTY LOSES ANOTHER OF “BRIGHT
LIGHTS”
Schneider’s, Near Aurora,
Clean When Sheriff Arrives.***

Another “place in the woods” was darkened yesterday morning when Sheriff Clarence White and Deputies Ernest Robichaud and Clarence Soderberg raided the place known as Victor Schneider’s, near Aurora.

District Attorney Sells asked the court to issue a bench warrant for the arrest of Dan [“Dapper Dan”] Morgan, Victor Schneider, Tony Pesavento and Joseph Woods for their alleged participating in the business of the Schneider place, declaring that the above parties leased and sub-leased the place with the full knowledge that it was to be used as a house of ill fame and a place where liquor would be sold and gambling permitted.

MENOMINEE



RANGE



MEMORIES

THE END