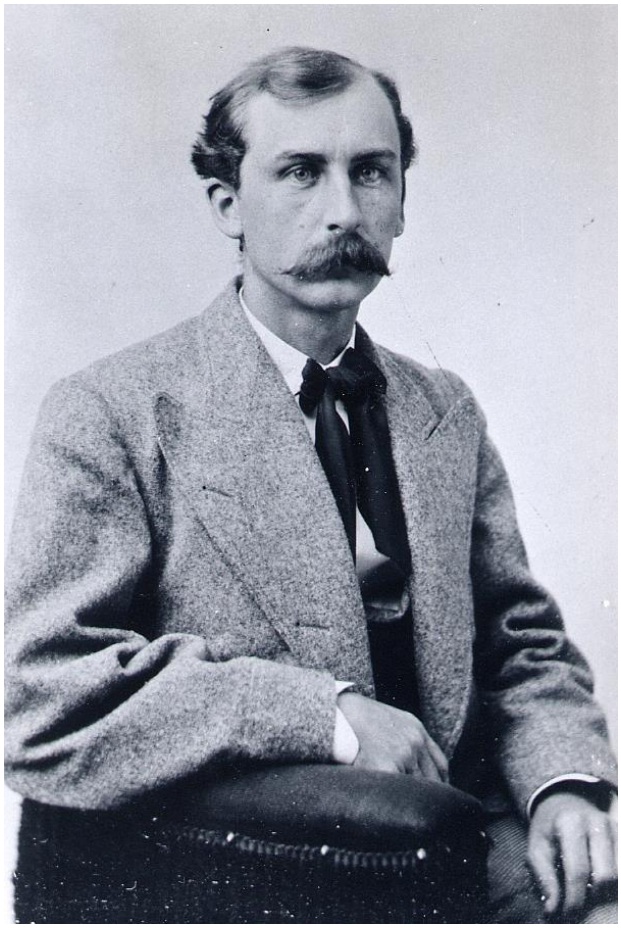
Pioneer Life on the Menominee Iron Range

By Mrs. Nelson Powell (Florence Terry) Hulst

***The Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Volume VII, 1923-1924, pages 406-416**



Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst

Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst, son of Garret and Nancy (Powell) Hulst, was born in East Brooklyn, New York, on February 8, 1842. When he died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on January 11, 1923, he was said to be the "greatest American authority on iron."

As chemist and technical engineer for the Milwaukee Iron Company, Hulst was first sent to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1872 to examine the iron prospect located by Thomas and Bartley Breen in Menominee County (Breen Mine, Waucedah) in 1867. Hulst rapidly advanced in the iron industry, becoming superintendent and general manager of the Menominee Mining Company in 1876, general manager of the Oliver Iron Mining Company in 1897, general manager in charge of Carnegie interests in all five iron ranges of the Lake Superior country, and finally a vice-president of the United States Steel Corporation at the time of his retirement in 1904.

His wife Florence's reminiscences entitled "Pioneer Life on the Menominee Iron Range" recounted her experiences when living in Vulcan in 1878-1881.

Florence (Terry) Hulst

Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst, sometimes called the Father of the Menominee Iron Range, married Florence Terry, daughter of Frank J. Terry and Martha Ripley Birge, in Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, on May 12, 1875. The Hulsts had five

children: Harry T., Clarence, Alfred, Edith and Alice.

Hulst served as mining superintendent and general manager for the Menominee Mining Company and was often separated from his wife in the early years of their marriage. Finally, in December, 1878, Florence (Terry) Hulst, together with sons Harry T. and Clarence, moved to Vulcan to be with her husband.

In a letter dated December 15, 1879 from James John Hagerman, president of the Menominee Mining Company, to Mrs. Hulst, she is praised for her willingness to live so far from the refinements to which she was accustomed and was duly honored for her many sacrifices: *The time is come when we must give a name to the new town in Wisconsin at the end of the Railroad now building, and to the new mine in the vicinity, now called the Eagle, but which name we do not wish to keep, as there is already an Eagle P.O. in Wisconsin. The Company owns all the land around the lake, where the town will be located. It will be a lively town. We shall put an anti-whiskey clause in all deeds and we expect it will be as much noted for its temperance and morality as for its – well, anything the future may develop. We all wish to call the new town and the mine Florence, to honor the first white woman who had courage enough to settle (for a while) in that rugged country. I mean the first white woman known to us. Will you permit your name to be used?*

Thus the mine, town and later the county of this settlement in northeastern Wisconsin were named. Mrs. Hulst's account of her life on the Menominee Iron Range follows.

It was in 1877, soon after the failure of the Milwaukee Iron Company, that Mr. Hulst accepted the position of superintendent of mines for the Menominee Mining Company. Beginning in 1872, he had explored to some extent the mineral lands of the Menominee Range and had brought in reports that warranted the establishment of a manager on the ground.

In the spring of 1878 he moved his family to Escanaba, where they lived until the completion of a house at the Vulcan mine location made it possible to have a home at his place of business. The house, built by the company, was situated in a clearing in the pine forest, with giant trees of the first growth on three sides of us, and on the fourth a little lake below the slope on which the building was erected. Between the house and the lake was the railroad, a branch of the Chicago and Northwestern, recently built for the transportation of ore to Escanaba, the port whence a large portion of the ore was shipped by the lakes to the various iron foundries and blast furnaces of the Middle West. About December 1, 1878, with the first fall of snow, we moved and settled with our two little boys in this home at the Vulcan mine. Our household goods had preceded us, and Mr. Hulst with the assistance of one or two of his men had got the new house in sufficient order so that we could begin to live comfortably from first arrival.

After months of separation from his family, Mr. Hulst's joy at having them with him once more was delightful to see. The morning after our arrival was bright and beautiful and he wanted to take his older boy, aged two and one half, up to Pit Two, an open working a little way up the hill from the house. The child was fascinated with the hoisting machine, the loud dumping of ore onto the pile, and the striking of the ore bucket to empty it, and the two stood for a long time watching operations. In the afternoon of that same day, from one of our windows I watched a slowly moving procession coming down the hill from Pit

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Two, carrying some burden. When Mr. Hulst came home he told me that a mass of rock had fallen and killed a man who was working where he, my husband, and our little boy had been standing in the morning. Thus our life in the mining country began with a sad demonstration of the dangerous nature of the work.

Winter began in earnest soon after our arrival, the thermometer in a few days registering fifteen to twenty degrees below zero; but the bright sun, dry air, and freedom from wind made it possible really to enjoy the low temperature, although at times during our stay in that region it was hard to endure the extreme cold. One winter we had three weeks of continuous below-zero weather, and one week when the highest the thermometer marked was twenty degrees below zero at noon; from that to forty degrees below for an entire week. Mr. Hulst all through the cold winters drove from mine to mine, for, in a few months after his work on the range commenced, other mines were discovered and developed in quick succession, the most important being the East Vulcan, and the Chapin situated ten miles west of Vulcan. With a pair of good horses and a light sleigh he made the distance over an excellent road in an incredibly short time, and was so well protected by fur garments that he suffered no inconvenience form the frigid temperature.

The nature of the mines, deep underground, made it possible to work with a full force all winter, the men with their comfortable log houses and good pay living contentedly with their families directly at the mine locations. There were boarding-houses also constructed of logs, which took care of the unmarried men. No liquor was sold at either of the mine locations and absolutely no drunkenness was allowed. If intoxicating drinks were obtained or used in any way, the guilty man or men were discharged forthwith.

East Vulcan Mine looking northeast, May, 1886

A physician was installed at Vulcan with an assistant at each of the other mines as soon as it opened. The men were required to pay a small sum each month to keep a doctor at hand, this sum (a dollar or less) covering all charges for medical and surgical services and all medicines for the entire month. But if a man was so fortunate as not to require a doctor's services for himself or family during the month, he grumbled at the fee and often at the end of that time went to the doctor's office for castor oil with which to grease his boots.

Speaking of good roads, the lumber companies had begun work on the range before the mining men arrived on the scene, and had cut roads everywhere through the forest. The drives were delightful, and Mr. Hulst often took his family with him on his trips to distant places where exploring was being conducted. One day as we drove along I noticed a flock of hens coming out of a low doorway, an entrance to a log building. I exclaimed, "What a very nice chicken house."

Mr. Hulst replied, "That's not a chicken house, but a human habitation – in fact, a

company boarding-house." In winter these log buildings were banked with snow almost to the windows to make them warmer.

East Vulcan Mine looking northeast, May, 1886

All through that first winter at Vulcan the mining work progressed, becoming more and more interesting as new pits were opened and more shafts sunk. The Vulcan mine was getting deeper and deeper, the East Vulcan was discovered, and before summer the Norway, Cyclops, and Quinnesec mines became busy scenes of activity, while the ore trains were constantly getting longer and running more frequently. The spur track, or Menominee River Railroad as it was called, was a section of road extending west from Powers, on the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern, to Vulcan, a distance of twenty miles. Later it was built ten miles farther to Iron Mountain, the site of the Chapin mine. It was badly laid out with many twists and curves. We had one little passenger train consisting of a single coach and a baggage-car. This train plied between Powers and the mines once in twenty-four hours. An express office at Vulcan, opened almost immediately upon our arrival, made it possible to obtain provisions from Milwaukee, and a supply store near by managed by the company furnished us with the necessities of life.

The first summer of our residence at Vulcan was notable for the discovery of the Chapin mine, which, as shafts were sunk and diamond drill work progressed, showed so rich and extensive an ore body that the duties of the manager became too arduous to be performed without help. Accordingly, Jefferson D. Day, a mining man from Ishpeming, Michigan, was engaged for the position of assistant, and a chemist, also a surveyor for underground work, were added to the working force. But in spite of all this help, Mr. Hulst's days were long and often hard. His interest and enthusiasm, however, made him forget fatigue and his long hours, beginning in winter before dawn and ending long after sunset.

Chapin Mine, Iron Mountain fall of 1879 or spring of 1880

In that northern country there is a short season of very hot weather, the thermometer registering occasionally a temperature of one hundred degrees. The mosquitoes arrive before the snow is gone and make life in the woods uncomfortable until August, when they entirely disappear. Even with all doors and windows screened it is impossible to keep a house free from

the pests; one morning I counted twenty-seven of them under the netting of my bed.

One hot, still summer afternoon Mr. Hulst came home "to stay awhile," as he said. Soon I understood the reason for his return to the house. Heavy black and gray clouds came rolling up from the west; in a few moments it was dark as night and a tornado broke upon us with all its fury. The house rocked and trembled, window glass flew all about us, and huge pine trees came crashing to the earth until we thought the whole forest was to be laid low. We tried to get to the cellar, for we thought the house would be wrecked; but flying glass made it dangerous to open the kitchen door, so there was nothing to do but watch and wait for the storm to spend itself. It was but a few minutes, possibly eight or ten, when the wind abated and we were safe. Terrific thunder storms were not uncommon, so the beautiful summer season in the northern woods was not without its drawbacks.

The young assistant engineer was a graduate of Yale, a man of frail physique, marked we believed for the "white plague," that had carried off all of his family. His poor health made him timid and one day he handed in his resignation, being unwilling to undertake the survey of a section of the mine which he was told to report upon. Mr. Hulst, learning from him the reason for his resignation, at once requested him to remain and himself did the work his subordinate dared not undertake. The mine laborers as a class were very superstitious, and not infrequently Mr. Hulst went to the spot where a man had been killed, took up the pick he had dropped, and did a little work with it before any of the dead man's associates dared touch it.

In spite of long hours and arduous duties Mr. Hulst found time to do much work at home to keep his family comfortable. We had no furnace in the house and he assumed the care of the stoves and fireplaces, clearing out ashes and bringing in fuel, considering such work too hard for a woman's strength. In the spring he planted quite an extensive vegetable garden, and many of the summer evenings he weeded and watered it, carrying the water by hand from a pump near the house. There seemed in those years no limit to Mr. Hulst's energy and strength.

John James Hagerman, the president of the Menominee Mining Company, had this house erected for his use in Vulcan in 1879.

Occasionally the president and vice-president of the company came up to inspect the work of their manager, and generally stayed at our house. This gave us the only bit of intercourse with friends we had the first year or more of our residence at Vulcan. Mr. Hulst felt the isolation keenly and it was a delightful event when Mr. and Mrs. Day moved into a house near ours, built for them by the company. At about the same time the mine doctor built a little home and brought his bride to Vulcan. The following summer J.J. Hagerman, president of the Menominee Mining Company, had a house erected next to ours and often came

up with his family or friends to spend a week or so. The bookkeeper and his family lived in this house, which was consequently always ready for the owner and his friends. The advent of these neighbors made life much more natural and we realized after they came how necessary friendly companionship is.

This photograph of the Vulcan Hotel, located on the west side of Mission Street, was taken on October 1, 1880. Lewis Young Whitehead was the proprietor.

The second year of our residence passed much like the first, except that now the hills and woods all about us were dotted with test pits so that wandering about in the dark was dangerous, so a high board fence around the house, enclosing about an acre, became a necessity, with our little children. As the boys grew older all sorts of activities went on within this enclosure. A miniature mining outfit made in the blacksmith shop was set up near the house and afforded unending employment and delight to the little boys who with tiny picks and shovels dug a “mine,” hoisted the “ore” with a tiny derrick, dumped it into a tramcar, and conveyed it by a track to the “stock pile.” They had been about so much with their father and knew so well how the mining work was conducted, that they carried out in correct detail all the processes going on about them. Their only pet was a beautiful little fawn that some man found in a test pit and brought up to “the little Hulst boys.” The children also fed and trained the squirrels and chipmunks that were so numerous in the woods, so they had many little playfellows.

Forest fires were always a danger in dry seasons, sparks from locomotives frequently starting the burning of leaves and sometimes wood piles. One serious fire in the fall of 1879 will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. There had been a long season of drought. As we walked in the woods the dry leaves and twigs would crackle beneath our feet, and Mr. Hulst said he must, for safety, spare men to rake and clear a larger area about the houses. The powder house, which was a quarter of a mile away, seemed too near the railway track in the woods west of our house. The first little blaze grew and spread with marvelous rapidity, until by the time the work of combating it began, it was a huge conflagration involving big dead trees, numerous wood piles, and all the dry underbrush in its wake. Mr. Hulst was in Escanaba that day, but the assistant and the mine captains gathered the miners together and quickly formed a bucket brigade from our well, which was the only water available, others digging trenches to confine the flames. It was no use – their puny efforts amounted to nothing, and Mr. Day in a panic came to the house and exclaimed breathlessly, “The fire has crossed the road and is spreading up the hill to the west with nothing to check it. To make matters more desperate, a strike is on at the Quinnesec mine [six miles west of us] and Mr. Hulst is not here.”

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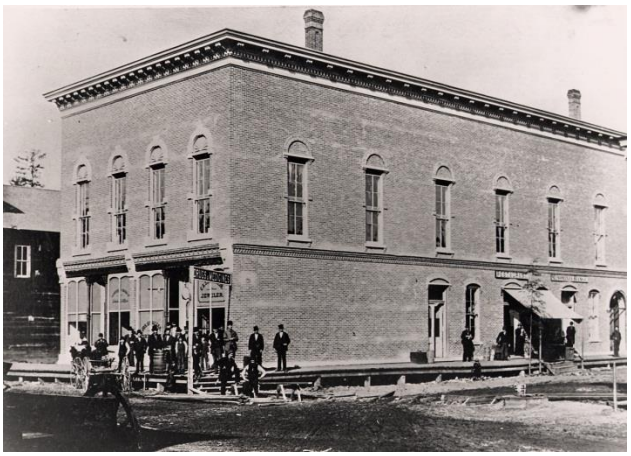
My husband arrived on the afternoon train, summoned by wire. At the scene of the strike an officer of the company had been storming up and down the platform at the store, swearing at and threatening vengeance upon the angry crowd, and had only made matters worse. The mine captain, a cool-headed man, had said to him, "Wait until Dr. Hulst comes, he will manage the men."

"He can do nothing with them," was the reply, "he doesn't know how to swear."

In the meantime, at once on his arrival at Vulcan, hearing how matters stood, Mr. Hulst ordered out his good horses and buggy and prepared to drive to Quinnesec. Mr. Day said, "It isn't possible to get through the flames." Mr. Hulst replied, "It must be done," and it was done.

The horses were frantic with fright but they made the plunge and got through the fire. Mr. Day accompanied Mr. Hulst on this exciting ride and afterwards gave me his report of what happened at the Quinnesec mine. Mounting the store platform, Mr. Hulst held up his hand and instantly had a quiet audience. He told the men that he had carefully looking into the matter of their dissatisfaction, had earnestly considered it from their point of view, and had decided that they were in the wrong. Consequently he must refuse to grant their demands. He said they could take their choice of going back to work within twenty-four hours or losing their jobs. In a few words he stated the reasons for the stand he took, trying to make them understand his position. The men listened attentively, then quietly dispersed, and all but one man reported for work the next day. That one got his "time" and left, while the instigator of the strike was discharged. So the superintendent, without swearing at or browbeating the men and without any show of anger or impatience, quickly made an end of what might have been a serious situation. Mr. Day said it was because the men had unbounded confidence in the fairness and kindness of their chief. Mr. Hulst had known for some days that a strike was imminent at the Quinnesec mine and had made arrangements to supply the places of the men through an agency in Chicago. He reached home that evening, tired out, smoke stained, and greatly concerned as to what the morrow had in store, only to spend most of the night fire-fighting with his men. Although the flames had been held in check to some extent, new danger spots were constantly showing and no one who was able to help dared sleep that night. The fire was halted just short of the powder house. Good news from Quinnesec the next day assured us that the trouble at the mine was over.



Buell's Opera House, corner of Quinnesec Avenue and Paint Street, Quinnesec, ca. 1880

In the autumn of 1879 the Menominee Mining Company built an opera house at Quinnesec, where creditable entertainments were occasionally given and where also the miners and their families might assemble for dancing and other social purposes. As no saloons were

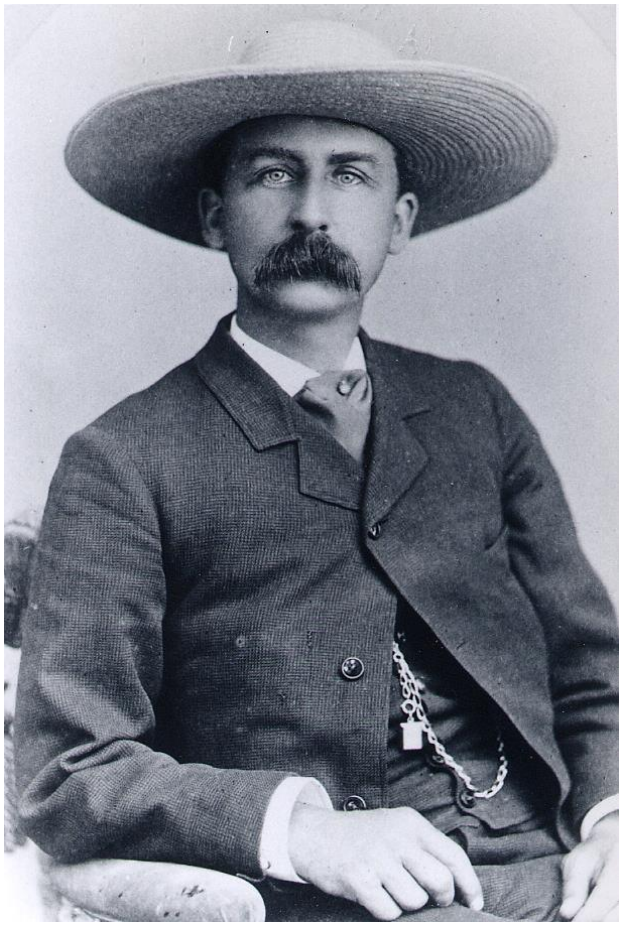
permitted, it seemed to Mr. Hulst very necessary to provide some gathering place for the men, some place in which to spend their evenings. In the summer of 1880 this building was used as a banqueting hall for the American Institute of Mining Engineers. Entertainment at their annual gathering was furnished by the Menominee Mining Company. It was a most interesting meeting for the members of the institute, many of whom were geologists and metallurgists, and they were especially glad to examine the rock formations of the range and see what had been accomplished in three or four years. A caterer from Milwaukee took charge of providing meals for the guests, bringing with him not only the refreshments but all the table furnishings and several waiters.

In the autumn of that year an outbreak of smallpox occurred in one of the larger company boarding-houses. Two men recently arrived came down with the disease and all in the house were, of course, exposed. In this emergency Mr. Hulst summoned all the mine carpenters from the different locations, and with his help and under his direction a building was erected and ready in thirty-six hours to receive the two patients and a man who had had the disease engaged to nurse them. The men who had been exposed were at once sent over to a log house across the lake, provided with food for ten days, and directed to remain there under pay for that length of time. The two cases recovered and went back to work, but one of the men who had been isolated came down with the disease the day after being released from quarantine. With facilities ready for his care this was not a serious situation and his case was a light one.

The winter of 1880-81 was a stormy one and will long be remembered by residents of that region, for the heaviest snowfall in the Upper Peninsula in years was experienced. It was some time after the Christmas holidays that the snow began to fall in great masses, day after day, until we were completely snowed in. Railroad traffic was impossible and telegraph wires were down, so that for two or three weeks we were cut off from all intercourse with the world. Underground work went on just the same, but each mine was isolated as the roads connecting them were impassable even for sleighs, so high were the snow drifts. At length one afternoon the cheering sound of a locomotive whistle was heard faintly, and we stationed ourselves at a window overlooking the track to watch for the hoped-for train. We had long to wait while nearer and nearer came the noise of the panting engines, and at last down the cut to the east two powerful locomotives came into view, slowly crawling along the track, laboring heavily and pausing frequently, halted by huge snow drifts, and at last drawing up to the station platform with two cars, a passenger and a freight car. The latter was especially welcome as the stock of groceries and provisions at the company store was running low. Mail was never more welcome, and the news that the telegraph wires had been repaired made us feel in the world again.

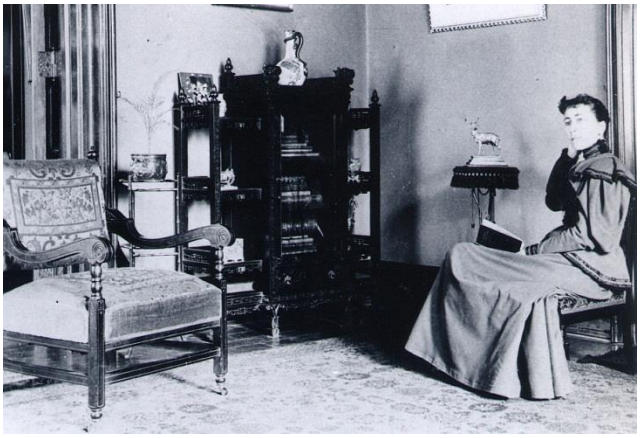
The Florence mine, twenty-five miles distant, had been added to the company's holdings and the work of the superintendent was too exacting for one man. Sleepless nights and frequent severe headaches made us feel that he must have rest and relief at least for a time. The doctor finally warned him that he must resign his duties for a year. With almost heart-breaking reluctance he handed in his resignation and we broke up the home in the pine forest where we had spent nearly four happy, profitable, and interesting years. To part

with the Chapin mine Mr. Hulst said was almost like giving up a child.



Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst

The mine officers gave Mr. Hulst a banquet at the Quinnesec opera house, where he was presented with a silver service, and on a later date they invited him and his wife to a farewell reception at the same place. It was a distinctly democratic affair, including the miners and their wives, the blacksmiths, carpenters, stablemen, etc. It was a most interesting gathering. The men stood in rows while we passed along shaking hands with and chatting with each man and his wife. Many of the men, good, honest fellows, had evidently much appreciated fair, kind treatment, for they told me with tears in their eyes that they "would never again have a boss like Dr. Hulst." Later in the evening there was dancing, which all seemed to enjoy and in which we took part as well as we could. So Mr. Hulst left his work and his many friends on the Menominee Range, with very sincere sorrow that he was obliged to leave his associates and his duties, that had filled his life with interest and pleasure.



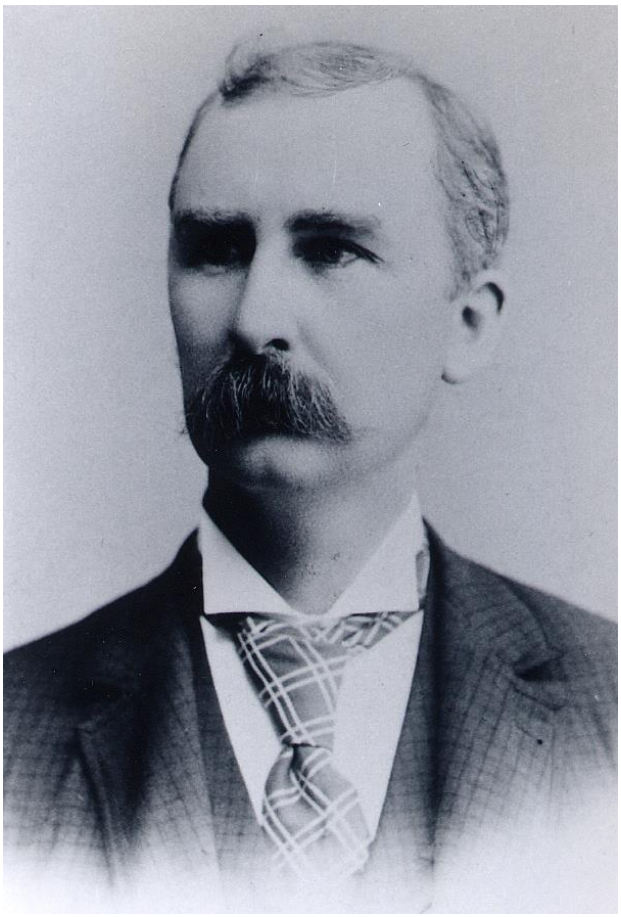
Florence (Terry) Hulst in her parlor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

A History of the Northern Peninsula of Michigan and Its People, Its Mining, Lumber and Agricultural Industries, Alvah H. Sawyer, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911, Volume II, pages 702-703 [excerpts from the biography of Harry T. Hulst]

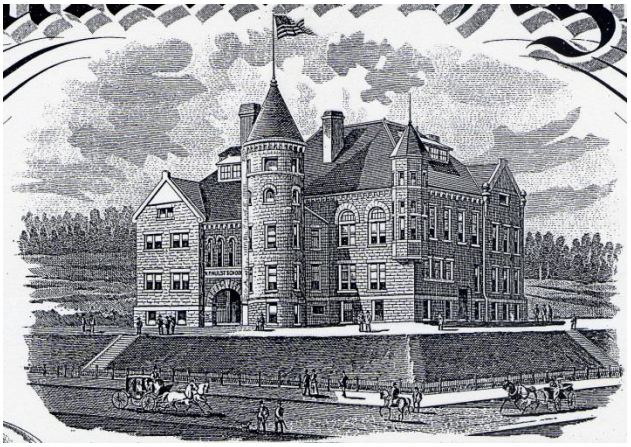
Although a native of East Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Nelson P. Hulst was brought up in Alexandria, Virginia, in that city and in Montgomery county*[,]* Maryland, being fitted for college. Entering Yale college in 1863 he was graduated from the academical *[sic – academic]* department in 1867, and two years later completed the course in mine

engineering at the Sheffield Scientific School, receiving his diploma. Continuing his studies in the same institution another year, he secured his doctor's degree, and in September, 1870, became chemist and engineer for the Milwaukee Iron Company, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two years later he traveled through the Menominee range, then unexplored, subsequently exploring the Breen and Vulcan mines, and the Felch Mountain range. In 1876 Dr. Hulst was made general superintendent of the Menominee Mining Company, and while thus employed opened up the Breen, Vulcan, Norway, Cyclops, Quinnesec, Chapin and Florence mines. In 1887, he, as manager of the Pewabic *[Mining]* Company, opened the Pewabic mine. Becoming manager of the iron mining interests of the Carnegie Steel Company in 1897, the Doctor had full charge of the management of the Oliver Iron Mining Company, and at the Foundation of the United States Steel Corporation, in 1901, was made vice president *[sic – vice-president]* of its various mining companies, retaining the position until his retirement from active pursuits. He is now living in Milwaukee*[,]* a respected and honored citizen. He has a practical knowledge of everything connected with mining, and his wide experience in this line of industry has made him an authority on subjects connected with minerals and mines.

Dr. Hulst married Florence Terry, and to them five children have been born, namely: Harry T., Clarence P., Edith R., Alfred N., and Alice F. The Doctor belongs to the Milwaukee Club, and is a member of the Plymouth Congregational church, of which he is a deacon and a trustee.



Dr. Nelson Powell Hulst



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The N.P. Hulst School, designed by Iron Mountain architect J.E. Clancy, was constructed by the Amberg Granite Company, of Amberg, Wisconsin, between October, 1891, and November, 1892, at a cost of $36,400. The castle-like walls were built of Amberg gray granite, while the foundation was red granite. The interior was finished in red oak. Situated atop the hill between Ludington Street and Hughitt Street on Madison Avenue just below Millie Hill on the city's East Side, the school became Iron Mountain's most familiarl and time-honored landmark until it was demolished in the spring of 1949. The above engraving was taken from a diploma issued during the time this building served as Iron Mountain's high school, between 1892 and 1912.

HULST SCHOOL, NAMED FOR FAMED IRON MINING AUTHORITY, FONDLY REMEMBERED BY MANY STUDENTS

By William John Cummings

When Dickinson County school bells begin ringing for the 1989-1990 school year on August 29, 1,100 elementary students in the Breitung Township School District will anxiously pass through the doors of the new $8.5 million Woodland Elementary School for the first time. Almost a century ago Iron Mountain high school students must have been equally excited when they entered the N.P. Hulst High School for the first time on November 14, 1892.

When the fall term began in Iron Mountain a year earlier, the following article appeared in *The Iron Range* on September 10, 1891:

Last year the city schools were overcrowded, and with no additional room it was impossible to accommodate all who applied for admission when the schools reopened last Monday morning. Those pupils who attended school last year were given the preference and enough newcomers admitted to fill all vacant seats. It is estimated that seventy-five children were turned away from the Central school building, thirty from the Brown street school and thirty or more from the Chapin school. The board of education have in process of erection a four-room school building on the Ludington Location , which will be ready for occupancy about November 1. This will greatly relieve the pressure, and give accommodation to those pupils who can now find no place in the schools, and with the large new school building on Ludington street that will be completed some time next year our city will be fairly well supplied with schooling facilities for a time at least.

F.W. Clancy, an Iron Mountain architect, drafted the plans at the request of the school board, composed of E.E.Brewster, president; J.M. Clifford, secretary; Jonah Orrison, treasurer; F.J. Trudell, Hugh McLaughlin, F.E. Woodbury, J.H. MacClean and W.T. Carpenter. The board purchased the 300 by 260-foot lot for the building on Madison Avenue from the Pewabic Mining Company for $8,000.

M. Contarini had begun work on the excavation for the basement and building the foundation walls early in October, 1891, and by mid-April, 1892, the Amberg Granite Company had 56 men rushing to complete the new school building. The school board voted to name the new school building the N.P. Hulst School at their meeting on May 10, 1892.

The Hulst School contained approximately 25 rooms, many of which were originally heated with fireplaces. As

enrollment increased, a manual training school known as the Fulton School was added to the Hulst School complex in 1903-1904. Manual training classes were taught in the eastern first floor classrooms and in the basement, where an engine powered by compressed air coming from a four-inch pipe running from the Chapin Mine air pipe ran the machinery. Home economics classes were taught on the second floor, and a special classroom in the southwest corner on the first floor was for "deaf and dumb" students. This classroom was later an "open air" classroom for tubercular children. The Lowell School was added to the complex in 1904-1905, and served as a school for grades one through four. To enable the students to pass from one building to the other during inclement weather, an enclosed ramp spanned the gap between the Hulst and Fulton schools, while a tunnel connected the Hulst and Lowell schools.

An article in the April 28, 1892 edition of *The Iron Range* listed the 24 teachers – all women – who would be retained for the following school year along with their respective monthly salaries, as follows: Flora Wilbur, $70; Cora Moon, $50; Nora C. Murray, $55; Ida M. Ripley, $50; Jennie Buttolph, $55; Julia Oberbolz, $50; Allie Wicks, $55; Flora DeLano, $50; Marion Burdon, $55; Carrie Roche, $50; Ella Penglase, $55; Julia Mason, $50; Alma Cook, $50; Ella Harper, $45; Kate Kinnifick, $40; Mrs. Julia Hicks, $45; Augusta Suwalsky, $40; Emma S. Keen, $45; Daisy L. Smith, $45; Mary I. Peck, $45; Agnes Bolan, $45; Mattie V. Conklin, $45; Ona Andrews, $45; and Jennie Penglase, $45. These teachers would have taught at the Brown Street School, the Central School, the Chapin School, the newly-opened Ludington School and the soon-to-be opened Hulst School.

As Iron Mountain grew, so did the number of students attending public school, resulting in the following situation in an article in the *Iron Mountain Press* of September 22, 1910:

The attendance at the high school is so large that Principal Reed has been forced to make room in his office for a class and two rooms in the basement are also utilized. The enrollment is 250, an increase of twenty-three over last year. The seating capacity of the high school auditorium is only 140. Supt. Amidon tells The Press that there has been a very marked increase in the attendance in all the higher grades. The total enrollment in all departments of the schools is now 2,500. In the lower grades the attendance shows no marked increase, but from the seventh grade to the high school the increase has been large.

The present Iron Mountain High School, costing $219,086, was opened in 1912 to remedy the overcrowding, and the Hulst School served as the junior high school from 1912 until 1938, when the Junior High School was constructed on the site of the Central School at a cost of $200,000.

The following year the county Works Progress Administration offices were established in the Hulst School and arts and crafts classes were conducted in the Fulton School, but this program ended in 1940, and the buildings stood idle. In 1942 a Hulst School Jubilee was held on July 3 and 4, when the old school bell summoned former students back to celebrate the Hulst School's 50th anniversary and to be reunited with school-day chums.

Just four years later, in the spring of 1946, Quinto Valenti and Abe Raskin purchased the Hulst School complex from the school board. Unfortunately, the Hulst School would never be the site of another anniversary celebration. An article in the April 11, 1949 edition of *The Iron Mountain*

News noted that within three months "Iron Mountain's most familiar and time-honored landmark" would be leveled to the ground.

Valenti and Raskin noted it was *impossible to move the school from the Madison Avenue site. We have held the building and its annexes, the Fulton and the Lowell buildings, since 1946, in the hope that some civic use might be found for them. We have met with a number of businessmen of this area to discuss proposed uses of the buildings. But no action has resulted. We are sorry that the school must be torn down. But taxes are high and there is a brisk demand for the building materials.*

Thus, the castle-like walls of the Hulst School came tumbling down. The stone frame and natural oak interior were sold by the owners. Larson and Sons, Iron Mountain contractors, were under contract to tear down both the Hulst and Fulton schools. Four men were already at work when the article appeared in the newspaper, and a temporary office had been set up in the Lowell School.

The Lowell School was later used as a wood products manufacturing plant. However, the building was abandoned in 1957, then vandalized by area children. Owned by Fred Snowden, the structure was gutted by fire July 18, 1960.

With the exception of the present high school, Iron Mountain's educational history in terms of school buildings has followed an unfortunate pattern, for in addition to the Hulst School complex, the Central School, the Chapin School, the Ludington School, the Farragut School, the Lincoln School and the Washington School all have fallen to the wrecking ball. Photographs exist to refresh our memory of what once was, but these buildings are most vividly and fondly remembered in the minds of the students who walked their hallways decades ago, dipped a girl's pigtail into an ink well and carved initials on a desk top.

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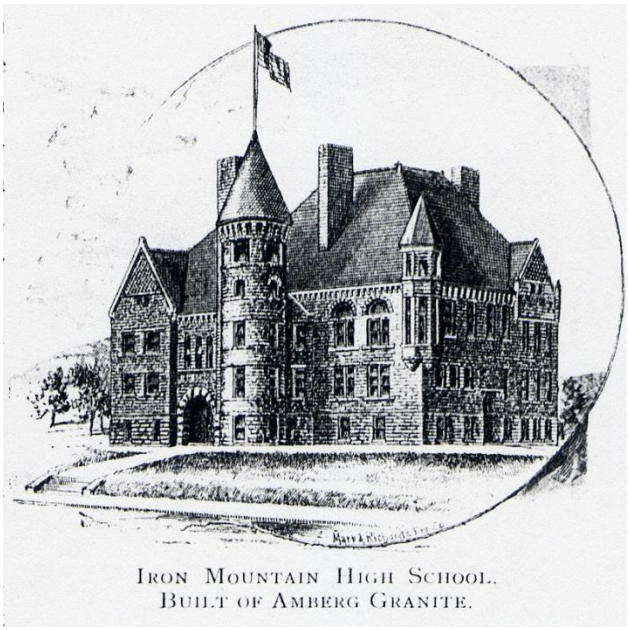

IRON MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL.
BUILT OF AMBERG GRANITE.