IRON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

The Western Terminus of the Menominee Iron Range

Compiled by William John Cummings
2012
Map of Iron County, Michigan, With Townships
Iron County was established in September, 1885, having been severed from Marquette County’s Ely Township, established in 1871, and a small portion along the Brule River was taken from Menominee County. The southwest portion of Marquette County was originally Ely Township, but when Baraga County was formed in 1875, the land now forming Iron County was placed in the new Township of Republic. In 1882 Crystal Falls Township and Iron River Township were formed after petitions were made to the Marquette County Board of Supervisors for representation. Pat E. Dunn, of Crystal Falls, and Daniel J. Lay, of Iron River Township, took their respective seats on the Marquette County Board of Supervisors on May 29, 1882. Economic development was primarily based on the mining and logging industries and was enriched by the diverse ethnic mixture of its people.

When Iron County was formed five townships were created: Iron River, Crystal Falls, Felch, Bates and Mastodon.

Crystal Falls serves as the county seat. In 1890, the population of Iron County was 4,432. The county has a total area of 1,211.02 square miles of which 1,166.36 square miles is land and 44.67 square miles is water.

**TOWNSHIPS**

- **Atkinson Township**, established in October, 1892, from Iron River Township; lands returned to Iron River Township when Atkinson Township was dissolved in 1906
- **Bates Township**, one of original five townships in 1885
- **Crystal Falls Township**, May 29, 1882; one of the original five townships in 1885
- **Felch Township**, one of the original five townships in 1885; became part of Dickinson County in 1891
- **Hematite Township**, established in 1891 when Felch Township went to Dickinson County – Amasa
- **Hemlock Township**, established in 1892; name changed to Atkinson Township
- **Iron River Township**, established May 29, 1882; one of the original five townships in 1885
- **Mansfield Township**, established in 1891 when Dickinson County was formed – Michigamme River
- **Mastodon Township**, one of original five townships in 1885 – Alpha
- **Stambaugh Township**, established June 14, 1886, set apart from Iron River Township – Stambaugh (merged with Iron River July 1, 2000, Caspian, Gaastra, Elmwood/Elmwood Siding
Iron River Township was established May 29, 1882, when the land was still a part of Marquette County. Originally, the township included T 42-44 R 34-37. On April 3, 1885, Bates Township was organized.

- **ATKINSON**, Iron County: In about 1887, the Metropolitan Lumber Company, under the direction of J.K. Stack and Henry M. Atkinson, secured extensive pine holdings along the north and south branches of the Paint River. They built a large sawmill and general store and began the village, named for Mr. Atkinson, who supervised the firm’s operations here. Thomas G. Atkinson, secretary of the company, became the first postmaster on March 12, 1892. The post office was closed on October 14, 1905, and the village has now reverted into farmland. When the new township was organized in 1892, it was named for the same Mr. Atkinson.

- **BASSWOOD**, Iron County: Basswood was a station on a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, 12 miles southeast of Watersmeet, in 1894. A number of these railroad stops were named after forest trees.

- **BEECHWOOD**

- **CITY OF IRON RIVER**
Iron River Township was established May 29, 1882, when the land was still a part of Marquette County.

- **GIBBS CITY**, Iron County: Gibbs City was a sawmill settlement on the Paint River; named for R.F. Gibbs, a hardwood lumberman, who operated here from 1913 to 1921. Ame E. Raidle became its first postmaster on May 24, 1917, the office operating until October 31, 1952. Gibbs City is now a ghost town.

- **HAZEL**, Iron County: Hazel was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad to the lumber communities in the area in the 1880’s. Like several others of these stops, it was named after forest trees. Its post office was Beechwood.

- **MINERAL HILLS**, Iron County: Named from the very productive iron bearing hills in the area, Mineral Hills was incorporated as a village in 1918.

- **NANAIMO**, Iron County: *See Iron River.*
BEECHWOOD, IRON RIVER TOWNSHIP

BEECHWOOD, Iron County: In 1888, the village began by being given a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and on November 17, 1889, a post office, with Richard M. Dwyer as its first postmaster, succeeded by hotelman J.J. Larsen in 1890. Beech trees are said to have been numerous in the area at the time.
This unused, tinted halftone postcard, dating between 1910 and 1915, is identified as the “Post Office and Residence of J.J. Larsen, Beechwood, Mich.” The founders of Beechwood, the very first settlers, were J. Jens Larsen, a Dane, and his wife, Lebbe Larsen, a highly respected Indian squaw.
The upstairs of their tin-covered house was rented out as a rooming house. Jens Larsen was one of the first postmasters and ran the post office from his home, where settlers would congregate around his pot-bellied stove after their day’s work. Children were allowed to play and scream to their hearts’ content in the basement which could be reached through a trap door in the floor. Jens became postmaster in April, 1891, and continued as postmaster until 1906. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked November 15, 1915, this tinted halftone postcard is identified as the “General Store of Sandgren & Anderson, Beechwood, Mich.” Albert J. Sandgren, of Gladstone, put up a one-room store, then known as the General Mercantile Store, which was only a lean to, located where the Beechwood Mercantile Store pictured above stands. Sandgren and his brother-in-law, A.J.T. Anderson, went into partnership, but Sandgren sold out to Anderson when he retired. [WJC Photo]
After Anderson’s death, his wife Mayme managed the store until she sold it to her brother, Louis Henricksen, who took over in 1944 and died in 1950. His wife, Mildred (Johnson) Henricksen, then took over until she retired in 1975. Their daughter Dorothy Javoroski operated the store until it was closed in August, 1979. Sangren & Anderson took over as the post office in this store in 1906, and A.J.T. Anderson took over as post from about 1918 until November, 1944. Store owners served as the postmaster from then on. [WJC Photo]
IRON RIVER
IRON RIVER TOWNSHIP

IRON RIVER, Iron County: From its beginning the location of the profitable Nanaimo Mine, then in Marquette County, and its post office, opened on April 21, 1882, with John McDonald as its first postmaster. The settlement was first called Nanaimo. Influenced by the rapid flow of miners and homesteaders to the area, the bachelor brothers, Donald C. and Alexander MacKinnon, acquired land here about 1878, and had J.A. Van Cleve plat the village as Iron River, which was registered September 20, 1881. James Innis built an inn in 1881, the first permanent structure. Iron River was given a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, and its post office was renamed Iron River on September 8, 1882 with Albert E. Steller as postmaster. The post office was transferred to Iron County on June 16, 1884. Iron River was incorporated as a village in 1885 and as a city in 1926. named from its location in an iron ore region.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 16

The contractor of the Iron River branch railroad is rushing the work from the junction. He wants to employ at least 800 men so as to complete the contract as early as possible. The superintendent of construction, has a big force cutting out the right of way and the grades are following. The route of the original railway has been changed somewhat to avoid several heavy cuts which existed on the route as surveyed.

THE depot at the terminus of the Iron River railroad extension, is to be located on section 36, 43-35 – this side of the river. The village of Iron River is laid out on the other side of the stream on section 26, which will make it about a mile from the depot. We understand that a new town will be laid out on this side, which will undoubtedly take the lead and be the coming city.
EXPANSION OF MENOMINEE RANGE RAILROAD – 17

The work on the Iron River railroad is being pushed forward as fast as possible. J.K. Crooks, superintendent of the work, informs us that he has a large force of men already at work and that the force will be increased and doubled as soon as the frost is out of the ground. He expects to have the whole work ready for the track layers by the first of August.
IRON RIVER IS A GROWING TOWN

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 16 [Saturday, April 16, 1881], page 3, column 3

MR. H. COOPER is going up to Iron River to build a good-sized two story hotel at Pewabic [sic – Pewabic] City, the coming metropolis on the western edge of the great Menominee iron belt. It will be close by one of the largest deposits of iron ore in the entire range.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 28 [Saturday, July 9, 1881], page 3, column 3

JOHN B. WEIMER, who has been running a stage line from here to Iron River, has had a three seated buck-board made on which to carry his passengers. It is just the vehicle for the business and combines lightness with strength. It is something that has been very much needed, and will be a great convenience to our Iron River neighbors, both as regards a means of conveyance and also for better facilities for carrying the mail.
IRON RIVER IS A GROWING TOWN

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume I, Number 52 [Saturday, December 24, 1881], page 3, column 3

– James Innes, of the new village of Iron River, called on us Thursday evening, and informs us that he is building a hotel at the enterprising place. He intends to keep a first-class house and THE MINING NEWS wishes his success.

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Marinette County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 7 [Saturday, February 11, 1882], page 3, column 3

THE depot at the terminus of the Iron River railroad extension, is to be located on section 36, 43-35 – this side of the river. The village of Iron River is laid out on the other side of the stream on section 26, which will make it about a mile from the depot. We understand that a new town will be laid out on this side, which will undoubtedly take the lead and be the coming city.
Iron River Items.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

Our new town of Iron River, is in a prosperous and growing condition. All who come here are much pleased with its location and prospects and they feel well repaid, after reaching here, for their tiresome journey, over the worst of roads. The new saw-mill owned by the McKinnon, Bros., blew its whistle on the 9th for the first time, but it will not be able to turn out lumber for a few days yet, as the pumps do not work satisfactorily. Many of our business men are waiting to procure lumber from the mill in order to erect buildings; many of which are in contemplation and will be rushed up as fast as possible. Parties are coming in and buying lots every day with the intention of building thereon. The bad condition of the roads deter [sic – deters] many from visiting us who would come, were there any comfortable means of doing so. One thousand dollars, is to be expended immediately upon the road which [sic – which] will make it passable. The Supervisor of the town of Humboldt was here yesterday looking up the taxable property. A meeting is to be held the 25th of this month, when a new town will be organized and town officers chose [sic – chosen].
Iron River Items.
(From our Special Correspondent.)

Our embryonic city is just now in a very smoky condition, owing to extensive fires in the woods, which have been carelessly allowed to get into uncontrollable headway. A hundred cords of wood belonging to the McKinnon Bros. have been destroyed and William Wait lost his house without being able to save even the contents. As the ground has now been burned, over the town site, there will in future be more safety from fires from that source. Andrew Boyington has suspended work upon his large hotel, until the saw-mill can supply him with lumber, which it is expected to do in a very short time. Building will then be general and rapid throughout the town. Dr. Bond, Sr., of Quinnesec, was in the village last week and his son Frank L. has opened an office and will attend to the practice of medicine in this vicinity. J.S. McDonald, of Fond du Lac[,] paid us a flying visit, looking after his interest in the Nanaimo mine.
The first death which we have had in our midst occurred on the 12th. The deceased was a Swede miner of the name of Nelson, and while going to work at the mine fell dead in the street. It is supposed that he died from heart disease. A procession of sixty men followed his remains to their resting place in the quiet woods west of town. The Rev. Mr. McGarvey, a preacher of the gospel from New Jersey, has come among us. He held his first religious service at the company’s office, last Sunday. Work commenced upon the wagon road, between here and the Junction last week, and we hope soon to have a good road over which we can travel with some kind of comfort. Work is progressing upon the Iron River branch of the C. & N.W. R’y, and indications are that the locomotive will enter Iron River at an early day. The chief engineer of the Ontonagon and Brule River R.R. was in town last week, having come from Rockland, the present terminus of the Northwest division of the road. The final line is located and the road will be built as rapidly as possible. It will run along the western border of the village and the C. & N.W. will come in on the east, running parallel [sic – parallel] with the river, and they will meet at the Nanaimo mine north of town.
Altogether the prospects of our settlement soon becoming a business center are bright and flattering. With a surrounding country well adapted to agriculture, sustaining a heavy growth of hardwood, which will furnish a lasting supply of fuel to furnaces that may be established here; with an almost inexhaustible supply of iron in the vicinity to keep them working; and a beautiful, healthy locality, to say nothing of our charming lake scenery in the neighboring woods, we feel that our’s will be a rapid and prosperous growth. Thus far the place has been settled by a good class of people, generally, and every inducement is offered to such to come and live among us.

IRON RIVER.
Iron River Items.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

All is now activity here. The saw-mill is turning out lumber, which is being utilized in putting up a great variety of buildings. To-day, the 29th was town meeting day with us, and I will be able next week to announce the names of our town officers. A sum of money, ammounting [sic – amounting] to about $150 was subscribed by our town’s people [sic – townspeople] as a sympathetic offering to our fellow citizen Wm. Wait, who lost his buildings by fire last week. Iron River is being whipped by a multitude of fisherman [sic – fishermen] and every inducement is offered to lure the “speckled beauties” from their native element, with fair success on the part of some. A party of the boys from the village were [sic – was] out to Stanley lake yesterday where they had rare sport chasing a deer which attempted to swim across the lake, they being in a canoe, after a lively race the game was captured. Deer are plenty [sic – plentiful] in the neighboring woods, as they are coming in from the south.
The Iron River Co. are [sic – is] establishing a town site on the east side of the river about half a mile from us and lots are for sale. There may be a rivalry between the two places, but we trust it will be a friendly one. Religious services are held every Sabbath. Preaching in the morning and Sabbath School in the afternoon.
Iron River Items.
(From our Special Correspondent.)

John Morrison is building a furniture store.
A.E. Kinley has nearly completed his large grocery store.
Miners buildings are going up very rapidly, in every part of town.
George Innes is erecting a large hotel and J. Innes a store and opera hall.
Lumber is in great demand and is snatched from the saw before it has time to cool.
We have so much iron here, and it is so common to us, that we scarcely think of remarking upon it.
Buildings are going up with great rapidity all over the town and many more will be erected as fast as lumber can be procured.
Andy Boyingtons [sic – Boyington’s] hotel is rapidly approaching completion. It is a very large structure and will be an ornament to the town.
Destructive fires are again in the surrounding woods, and have burnt the camp at Stambough, the new town across the river.

The village presents a very active appearance, the carpenters' hammer is the magic wand which is causing our towns to spring up in a night, almost.

Dr. Rosenbury is building an office near Andrew Boyington’s hotel. He comes from Menominee and is rapidly working himself to a good practice as he is well liked.

William Scott, from Florence, is also building a large billiard and drinking hall, near the hotel. He was one of the victims of the large fire, at that place, on the first of May last.

The McKinnon Bros. have struck another ledge of ore of the best quality, which has the evidence of being an extensive deposit. It is located on the s. ½ of the s.e. ¼ of sec. 26, 43-35.

Alex. Quirt has given up the saloon business. Good for Alec! We all say and will help him in any other business he may desire to start. Saloons must needs be, but they are no credit to a place.
Our townspeople are a law abiding community, as we have had no disturbance of any kind yet, and our Sabbaths would compare well with the day in New England, in regard to its observance. The religious meetings are well attended.

The township organization of Iron River, is now in perfect working order. The following are the officers elected: Supervisor, D.I. Lay; Clerk, A. Forsythe; Treasurer, Alex. Quirt; Highway Commissioner, Manvil Wait; Drain Commissioner, J. McFarland; School Inspectors; [sic - ,] W.H. Selden and J. Scipschen; Justices of the peace, J. Innes, John Scipschen, John Morrison and John Weimer; Constables, T. Webb, A. Cummings, E. Gilman and Chas. Colwell.

It seems that our correspondent at Crystal Falls ignores [sic – ignores] Iron River altogether, as he writes that Crystal Falls is the town of this part of the U.P.; as though it disclaimed to acknowledge a rival. Our neighbors at Crystal Falls certainly have the start of us, by almost a year in point of time, but the prospects are good that Iron River will be fleet in the race and will overtake its boasting neighbor. We will not say surpass, for that might seem like presumption to our C.F. correspondent.
Iron River is a growing town - 1

Nothing sensational has occurred as yet of which to write. I can tell you of the steady, rapid growth of our village, and the steady influx of settlers, only. Andy Boyington opened his bar today, and the boys who like their beer, were well treated. Andy's saloon and fixtures would do credit to Chicago, Milwaukee or even Florence as they are very fine. J.F. Towell is building a large saloon, and hopes to open by the 4th of July. Many trout are being caught out of the river by our sporting men. The McKinnon Bros. are building a new mill near their board mill, which will be devoted to planing and finishing of lumber and sawing of shingles. They intend to supply our people with all they need in the line of building material, at reasonable figures. A large, new engine is expected soon to drive the circular saw. As they have not power enough in the present one to do rapid work, the logs are very large. We learn that Mr. Noyes of Florence, lost a horse this morning, on the road to Florence, soon after leaving here, its leg was broken in some manner.
Capt. Luxmore commenced taking ore out of the Namaimo, to-day, and he is confident of shipping, before navigation closes. A great many potatoes have been planted by farmers in our neighborhood this spring, and many are up. We welcome with pleasure the enlarged sheet of THE MINING NEWS and would congratulate Florence upon having a local paper of so high a character. We of Iron River look forward to the time when we shall have a paper of our own and we hope it will be as good, and as well conducted as THE MINING NEWS. A good local newspaper will aid a new town in its growth, more than anything else possibly can and I think Florence should credit the efficient manager of its newspaper with a large share of the town’s prosperity. I think the case has scarcely a parallel where a town no older than Florence has supported a paper that could equal THE MINING NEWS as it appears this week. All success to the hard working editor, and we will try to help him in a feeble way to make the columns of THE MINING NEWS interesting.
The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume II, Number 29 [Saturday, July 15, 1882], page 8, column 2

Iron River Items.
(From our Special Correspondent.)

“Westward the Star of empire takes its way,” [sic - ."] Yes sir, and northward too, judging from the rapidity with which Iron River is being settled. In spite of the inconvenience attendant upon journeying here, and living without the advantage of a railroad, people are coming in every day, with the intention of settling among us. Building would progress more rapidly, if lumber could be procured faster. As it is our town site is pretty well dotted with buildings. Wm. Scott’s hotel is nearly completed and also the store of Mr. Steller, the jeweler. A large mill building is going up for the accommodation [sic – accommodation] of the shingle and finishing machinery. W.J. Tully[,] of Commonwealth[,] was in town last week making arrangement to put up a building. Work will commence upon it this week. John R. McDonald[,] of Quinnesec[,] is building a store 40x90. Dwelling houses too numerous to mention are going up all over town. J.F. Towell opened a saloon last week, since which time there has been a division of custom between him and Andy Boyington.
E.A. Kinley opened up a grocery store on Wednesday last. He as [sic – has] an excellent assortment of goods in his line. Law business is tolerably active and some of our justices have turned lawyers. Cases are quite well handled and considerable talent is shown, if not much law. The mines are looking finely. A large stock pile is looming up at the Nanaimo. The Iron River Mining company has also a big output, of excellent quality. In fact all our ores run high in metallic iron. The McKinnon Bros. [sic] have, in a measure, suspended operations at their new exploration, owing to water. As soon as a pump can be procured work will be resumed. The indications are very encouraging. Our waters are well supplied with fish, which is evidenced by the many good strings of bass, pickeral [sic – pickerel] and trout which make their appearance almost daily. I might speak of the nice fat buck, which now and then finds its way into our hotels, were it not contrary to law to mention such matters. But necessity defies all law, or gospel either and our needs demand something as a substitute for beef at 22 cents a pound. The road between here and the junction is so bad that horses break their legs while travelling over it and in some cases disappear altogether. Repairs have commenced upon it again this week. IRON RIVER.
About seven miles this side of Iron River, on the railroad right of way, existed a log building in which various kinds of liquid groceries were sold, to anyone who had the money to buy. It was owned by a man of the name of Joe Griff. Silas Anderson was his bartender. On Sunday evening Griff observed some men working a hole under one corner of the structure and shortly afterwards light a fuse. He called Anderson and both went near the scene of operations. They were warned off with pistols and retired back some 20 or 30 feet. An explosion occurred. Griff was thrown down by the shock. Upon recovering he looked for Anderson and found him laying down on his knees and face. Anderson gave a few groans and expired. Griff then started in the direction of Lake Chicagon. In about ¾ of an hour he heard another explosion. This, as was subsequently ascertained, was caused by another explosive placed in a hollow cedar log, on the opposite side of the structure. Two men were sleeping close by. One of them was struck near the shoulder with some kind of missile and injured so severely, that his recovery is considered doubtful. A coroners [sic – coroner’s] inquest was held before Esquire Schipschen of Iron River township, on the dead man, and a verdict rendered in accordance with the facts as above stated.
So far the parties who committed the outrage are unknown, but it is thought thought [sic] that they will be caught, as sufficient is known of the case to identify them. Although the business that Griff was engaged in was obnoxious, yet the affair looses [sic – loses] nothing of its criminal magnitude. Law exists in the State of Michigan and as we understand the situation in this case, sufficient power rested in the hands of the local authorities to have suppressed the nuisance – if it was such – without resorting to mob voilence [sic – violence], then again we are informed that it was on the railroad right-of-way. If this was the situation, certainly the agents of the company could have ordered it off, and the party would have been bound to submit – nolens volens. As it is, it becomes nothing more or less than a cowardly brutal murder and the parties in the atrocious affair should be made to suffer the penalty of the law.
C.B. AND E.W. INGALLS, of Waucedah, have prepared to send milk to towns on the Range, including Florence, Iron River and Crystal Falls.

Milk ! Milk ! Milk !

On and after the 20th of May we will be prepared to furnish milk on the Range in wholesale quantities at greatly reduced prices. We can send milk fresh every morning to any town on the range. Milk delivered fresh in Florence two hours after milking, at prices greatly below the present scale. Milk promptly sent to Iron River and Crystal Falls.

C.B. AND F.W. INGALLS,
Waucedah, Mich.
The trains commenced running through to Crystal Falls and Iron River, on Monday last, which is a great accommodation to the citizens of those places.

Iron River Ripples.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

The NEWS is on sale at Dr. Bond’s drug store.
Trout fishing is a great pastime and is being indulged in by all.
There is some talk of organizing a lodge of Odd Fellows at Iron River.
The McKinnon boys are about to commence an exploration at the west end of the town site.

The prospects of our place look somewhat brighter, and we can see a slight change for the better.

On Wednesday of last week a pleasant ball, which was greatly enjoyed by all, was given at Innes Hall.

Our hotels can see the difference brought by the change in running trains, which allows visitors to stay here at night, when before they stayed at Florence.

Dr. F.L. Bond visited Chicago and Peoria, Ill., and returned the latter part of the week. His sister and mother are to spend a portion of the heated term at Iron River.

Much complaint is made because sawdust is being dumped into the Iron River. It drives out the trout, by getting into their delicate gills and strangling them.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Lake are soon to leave Iron River, at least temporarily. Mr. Lake will go to Harvard, Ill., and join his wife at Minneapolis, about the first of July.
The new plant of machinery received by the Nanaimo from the Florence Iron Works is doing good work and giving excellent satisfaction. The Florence institution will get all the work that is to be had from this section.

Steller Bros. are fitting up their store in the bank building in a fine manner. A new counter has been put in the bank, and when all is completed it will be a model business room. We have just the cutest little post-office for miles around.

Work on the new depot at the foot of Adams Street is being pushed, and it will be completed in short order. The structure is to be 100 feet in length and quite commodious. Sanguine property owners on Adams street vehemently aver that this street is to be the future business thoroughfare of the town.

George Innes is rapidly fitting up his new hotel on Adams Street and will have everything complete in the course of two weeks. The hotel will be conducted on first-class principles, is near the new depot and also convenient to the business quarters. It is bound to do well.
The Wisconsin and Michigan officials visited this place on Wednesday, and all are agog over the idea of soon having another railroad. The survey of the Ontonagon & Brule River road was completed from Ontonagon to the Brule River, on Tuesday. At the latter place the Wisconsin & Michigan and the Ontonagon & Brule River, will join rails.

The unsettled condition of titles still bothers us more than anything else, and keeps back explorations and other active movements. It is probable that a test case will be had sometime soon, which will settle matters. As soon as we know “who is who and what is what” there will be a decided onward movement here. We have plenty of ore, but we don’t want to find it for someone [sic – someone] else.
Iron River Ripples.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

Mrs. Cummings has opened a millinery store on Gennesee [sic – Genesse] street. Both the Iron River and Nanamo [sic – Nanaimo] mines are shipping ore daily. Preparations for the erection of the new depot are rapidly progressing. A petition is going the rounds which has for its object the grading of Nelson street. Your correspondent has this week to thank A.S. McNaughton for courtesies received. A first-class laundry has been opened on Adams street, opposite Mr. Steller’s residence. Wm. Scott has christened his hotel “Central House,” and his sign bearing that name has been hoisted.
The fires which have been endangering the safety of the town have been mostly extinguished by the late rains.

Goetz & Paradise are fitting up McKinnon’s store, preparatory to a removal of their stock into that building, which is more centrally situated than their present place of business.

One of the great wants of Iron River has been at last supplied, Mr. Parker having opened a bakery and restaurant, and we are glad to notice that his enterprise is likely to prove a success.

The brakeman who had his leg so badly shattered while discharging his duties on the C. & N-W. in this vicinity last week, died on Saturday afternoon from the effects of his injuries.

John Morrison and A. McCullough are now the sole partners in the furniture store here, they having bought out A. McCue, who had been a partner in the concern since it was started in the spring of 1882.

Some of our lady gossips have of late become very jealous of younger ladies than themselves, who enjoy the pleasure of buggy-riding in company with gentlemen much younger than the husbands of said lady gossips.
While a four-horse team was crossing the bridge near the Nanaimo mine, on Sunday last, the structure, which was a poor apology for a bridge, gave way. No serious injury resulted, however, beyond the maiming of one of the horses. The bridge is now undergoing repairs.
HANNON’S STORE BLOWN UP BY DYNAMITE – 1

IRON RIVER ROUSED!

HANNON’S STORE BLOWN UP BY DYNAMITE.

A Terrible Midnight Explosion – No Clue to the Malicious Perpetrators.

At about 2:30 o’clock Thursday morning the citizens of Iron River were startled from their sleep by a terrible concussion and tumbling noise resembling sharp, heavy thunder. The few who were up, including the night watchman, hurried in the direction of the report and found the building owned by Mrs. Hannon and occupied until lately by Hannon & Vail, terribly shattered in front. Buildings near, especially the saloon of William Webb, were badly injured, and glass was shattered for hundreds of feet.
The concussion was plainly felt all over the town, and few were there who slept through the noise. Close investigation revealed the fact that a quantity of giant powder had been inserted under the southeast corner of the building. On exploding, it tore out the front, drove out the sides and burst asunder the joists. Many are the causes assigned for the malicious deed, but no clue to the actor in the cowardly affair is yet to be had. Considerable trouble over the property and between those who have occupied it, has been had in the past. Anybody who, in the stilly [sic – still] hour of night, will sneakingly [sic] proceed to an unprotected spot, insert a powerful explosive and destroy property which, perhaps, it has taken years of hard toil to accumulate, is unworthy the form in which he exists, let alone the name of man. Such work should be rewarded by swift and unerring punishment, to the fullest extent of the moral and physical law. Iron River, like all new towns, has been infested with a rough element, which is gradually sinking out of sight before the face of the many law abiding citizens who, when awake, assert good order with a vim. Had the building been occupied, the affair might have resulted in a terrible tragedy, but as it was, no one was hurt.
HANNON’S STORE BLOWN UP BY DYNAMITE – 3

It does not necessarily speak ill of the town that such a thing should occur, as viscous \(sic – \) vicious, cowardly, sneaking, immoral specimens, capable of anything, are to be found in all places from the largest city to the smallest hamlet. Every citizen of Iron River should constitute himself a special detective to hunt down the guilty wretch and see that he gets his just deserts \(sic – \) desserts.
IRON RIVER FIRE.

THE BRIGHT TOWN VISITED TO THE TUNE OF $40,000.

McDonald, MacKinnon, Boyington, Innes, Bies, Lalley, Penberthy and Others Burned out by an Early Morning Blaze last Saturday – One of the Largest Fires that has ever Visited a Range Town – An Absence of Wind and Hard Work Saves the Town – Very Little Insurance to Cover the Big Loss – Fortunes of a Life Time Swept Away in a Single Hour – Iron River Ripples.
IRON RIVER BURNED SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1885 – 2

The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume V, Number 27 [Saturday, July 4, 1885], page 1, columns 5-6 [continued]

On Saturday morning last, at shortly before three o’clock, the bright town of Iron River, at the terminus of the Menominee Range branch of the C. & N.-W. R.R., 27 miles northwest from Florence, was visited by a disastrous conflagration, which destroyed five of the principal business blocks and wrought damage to the extent of nearly $40,000, with very little insurance to counteract the effect of the great loss. The appended table gives as near as could be procured, the loss and insurance in detail:

[LOSS AND INSURANCE TABLE; DIAGRAM OF DISTRICT BURNED]

The fire was discovered at shortly before three o’clock, in the stairway between Lalley’s saloon and Penberthy’s drug store, leading to the living apartments of Alex. McKinnon. Owing to the crude methods of fighting fire, nothing being obtainable but buckets, and the dryness of everything, the flames spread with lightning rapidity, although there was no wind. Brave men worked like heros and
EQUALLY BRAVE WOMEN

Passed buckets of water and assisted in hastily removing effects. The demon, mad in its destructiveness, soon laid in ashes the three buildings on the north side of Main street, owned by MacKinnon Bros., and James Innes and occupied by J.S. Penberthy’s drug store, Martin Lalley’s saloon, John McDonald’s large general store, Innes’ Opera Hall, the Knights of Labor, MacKinnon Bros., business office, W.J. Brown’s insurance office, James Innes’ justice office and A. MacKinnon’s residence. The flames then, in their hungry fury leaped across the wide street and devoured Martin Bies’ property, in which he kept a saloon and A.J. Boyington’s magnificent hotel, ONE OF THE LARGEST, best-appointed and best kept houses on the Range. All of this was done in a remarkably short time, but it took more to discourage the heroes that were giving battle. The bucket brigade worked like tigers at bay and another squad wet carpets and used them most effectually, thereby saving after a hard battle, Ammerman’s drug store, Noonan’s building and Lengren’s building. It was a hot time, but it found every man at his post. Had there been wind, nothing could have saved the entire town. As it was the loss was severe.
Stambaugh responded nobly and a business man of Iron River writes as follows to this paper.

THANKS TO STAMBAUGH.

Editor MINING NEWS:

We wish to thank the Stambaugh people through your valuable columns, for timely aid in suppressing the fire at this place. We feel that we can not [sic – cannot] say too much in their praise. They worked nobly and stood by their work like men, and I might add women, for some of them, with Iron River ladies, were seen handing buckets of water to the men on the ladders. We will not mention names, fearing we will not do them all justice, as all are entitled to great praise. We will not forget them in the future.

Almost all succeeded in saving a portion of their stock. John McDonald saved about half of his, J.S. Penberthy saved considerable and Andy Boyington saved some. Mr. Boyington’s loss, as will be seen by above table, is by far the most severe. He is a hard-working, popular, accommodating gentleman, who left an arm on a Southern battle field [sic – battlefield], defending his country’s hearth-stones and made all that he lost in a single hour, with his remaining arm.
His friends hear of his loss with the greatest regret, but Mr. Boyington is not the man to be cast down by the reverses of fate. Others also lost heavily and they have the sympathy of their neighbors here and elsewhere. Almost all have resumed business with characteristic American energy, in some shape or other. The Boyington House is now conducted in an old Norwegian boarding house, to the rear of his former splendid hostelry and it is hoped all of his old patrons will find him there. The people of Iron River have more than the usual share of courage, fortitude and perseverance. They have fought adversity ever since the town was founded and they meet each new enemy as bravely as ever. That they may win the fight in the end is the wish of the MINING NEWS.

IRON RIVER Ripples.

Frank Camins, the sturdy, hard-working blacksmith, was badly hurt while heroically fighting fire last Saturday morning. His friends hope to soon see him around again.

The MINING NEWS, ever enterprising, despatched [sic – dispatched] a special correspondent to the scene of the great fire.
The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin and many are the motives rehearsed. The new saw mills are rapidly nearing completion. They will add some life to our town. Boyington, MacKinnon and McDonald have announced their intention to rebuild at once. Expert safe openers and insurance adjusters have been plentiful in town during the week. J.M. Thorn was an outsider who witnessed the fearful fire. The Iron River Co.’s saw mill will be closed July 1.
SHOOTING ON THE STREETS OF IRON RIVER – 1

A MURDEROUS POLACK.

JOS. HOLAS, INSANE WITH RAGE, SHOOTS TO KILL AT IRON RIVER

He Fires two Charges of buckshot Into a Large Crowd of People – He Shoots High, but Seriously Wounds Two Men – He Fires a Third Time, Probably Fatally Wounding Marshal Scott and Injuring Al. Cummings, who were Trying to Arrest Him – The Fiend Finally Secured – A Lynching Bee Barely Averted. – The Would-Be Assassin Run Out of the County in Order to Save His Precious Neck – Full Particulars on the Exciting Occurrence.
The bustling little city of Iron River, twenty-six miles west of Florence, on the North-Western road, was the scene of an exciting and tragic occurrence last Monday afternoon, a vicious Polander named Joseph Holas shooting down four men, two of whom received very serious injuries. The names of the victims are as follows:

Edward Scott, village marshall \[sic\], shot in three places – in the back part of the right shoulder, in the lower part of the right jaw and through the wrist.

Nic Docter, aged 19 years, shot near the left groin, the ball narrowly missing the intestines and bladder.

Joe Basinet, a Frenchman, shot in the left shoulder.

Al. Cummings, about 30 \[sic - 55\] years of age, proprietor of a saloon and restaurant, flesh wound in the neck, near the breast bone.

A MINING NEWS reporter visited Iron River a day or two after the shooting and learned the essential particulars of the terrible affair.
Joseph Holas, the man who committed the deed, is a Polish miner, unmarried and about 55 years of age. He at one time worked at the Florence mine, but for the past year or two has been employed at the Stambaugh mine. While Holas was passing along Genesee Street, early Monday afternoon, a few persons, said to have been composed mostly of boys, pelted him with snow balls. Holas went to one of the officers and demanded the arrest of a certain young man, whom he claimed led the attack. The officer replied: “You go and get a warrant and I’ll make the arrest.” Holas, who did not appear anxious to secure a warrant, said: “If you don’t arrest him I’ll SHOOT HIM AT 3 O’CLOCK.”

Holas started homeward and met a fellow countryman, a man of some education and one whom the Polanders generally go to for advice when in trouble. Holas related his alleged grievance to his friend, and the latter advised him to get his gun and “shoot anybody and everybody who molested him again.”

True to his promised threat, the fellow appeared upon the street at the hour indicated.
He passed along the Boyington House side of the street to the corner near the postoffice building, when two or three snow balls were thrown at him from across the road, none of the balls, however, coming anywhere near hitting him. At this juncture, Holas pulled the barrel and and [sic] stock of a single-barrel shot gun from underneath his coat, calmly put the weapon together, raised it to his shoulder, took careful aim and

**FIRED INTO THE CROWD**

of men and boys standing in front of Al. Cummings’ restaurant. The charge scattered, eleven ball [sic – balls] passing through the large plate glass and several others into the wood work and through the open door. One of the balls struck Joe Basinet, who was seated upon a table in the back part of the restaurant, and another one of the leaden missiles was stopped by young Nic Docter as he was passing out of the building to the street. The excitement became intense as the infuriated Pole was seen to calmly put a fresh loaded shell into his gun. Quite a number of children were among the crowd, and nearly all of them were quickly hustled into the restaurant and out through the back way to places of safety.
would have resulted. There were half a dozen or more men standing within short distances of the would-be assassin, but not the slightest attempt was made by any of them to arrest the fellow, though his capture could safely and easily have been effected immediately after the first discharge of his weapon. Mr. Cummings finally made up his mind to capture the shooter, but in making the attempt the brave old man came very near losing his life. Hurrying across the street as fast as his rheumatic limbs could carry him, he seized Holas by the shoulder, but the desperate scoundrel struck Cummings’ arm with his gun and, jumping sideways a rod or so, leveled his weapon, aimed directly at the old man’s head and

**FIRED THE THIRD SHOT.**

Just as Holas was in the act of pulling the trigger, Cummings stepped backwards thus undoubtedly saving his life. One of the buckshot, however, struck him between the neck and breast bone, making an ugly-looking and painful flesh wound, though not a dangerous one. When Holas fired, Ed. Scott, the plucky village marshal, who was running to Cummings’ assistance, was within a few feet of the latter, he arriving upon the scene just in time to receive a portion of the charge intended for Cummings. When Scott fell to the ground unconscious and bleeding, the
EXCITEMENT WAS INTENSE.

Hundreds of people flocked to the locality, but Holas, sullen and defiant, held them at bay until placed under arrest by Under Sheriff Flannagan. He made no resistance, which was probably owing to the fact that his ammunition was exhausted. The under sheriff and one or two other cool heads took charge of the man, determined to protect him from violence at all hazards. The crowd clamored for vengeance and loud

THREATS OF LYNCHING

were freely made. Deputy Flannagan hastily procured a rig, hustled the murderous Pole into the cutter and started for Crystal Falls. The officers expected to be followed by the maddened friends of the wounded men, and were prepared to defend their prisoner and uphold the majesty of the law. Happily for the good reputation of Iron River, better counsels prevailed, and the officers were in nowise molested while en route to the county seat. Sheriff Tully had spent a portion of the day at the Falls, and while returning to Iron River, accompanied home by Capt. John Morrison, met the posse on the road. Learning the particulars of the shooting, the Sheriff sent his rig home by Capt. Morrison, and accompanied Deputy Flannagan to Crystal Falls.
Arriving at the latter place, Sheriff Tully quietly placed Holas in a room on the third floor of the Lockwood House, summoned Justice Henry, and the latter quickly bound the prisoner over to the next term of the Circuit Court for trial. The reason why so much precaution was deemed necessary on the part of the sheriff, was owing to the fact that a large number of Iron River people were in the Falls at the time and fears were entertained that the facts of the shooting would be communicated to some of them by wire and that an attempt might be made to

LYNCH THE POLANDER

within sight of the new temple of justice now in course of construction in that city. So quietly were matters arranged and carried out that the presence of the posse and prisoner in town was known to scarcely half a dozen people. After the arraignment of Holas, the party boarded the sleigh and drove to Florence, arriving in this city about 3 o’clock Tuesday morning. Refreshments were procured at McDevitt’s, and a charge of horses was made at Molloy’s livery stable.
The sheriff’s party, thereupon, drove to Iron Mountain, but did not stop there, as was first intended, owing to the fact that Engineer Scott, a brother of the wounded marshal, is stationed in that city, the sheriff thinking that, in case the former had received information of the tragic occurrence, the presence of his brother’s

**WOULD-BE SLAYER**

in the Menominee County jail in the city of Menominee, there to await the result of his victims’ injuries. A movement is on foot to restore capital punishment in the state of Michigan. It is to be hoped that the Legislature, now in session, will hurry up and pass the death penalty bill so that Holas may be legally executed in the event of the death of Scott or Docter. The fellow deserves to be

**STRANGLED TO DEATH,**

anyway, no matter whether the men live or die. He shot to kill, and cared not whether he murdered a score of innocent people who had never wronged him in the least.
At last reports Ed. Scott and Nic Docter were in an exceedingly precarious condition, but their many friends are hopeful of their ultimate recovery. The bullet which lodged somewhere in Docter’s body and the one in Scott’s shoulder had not been removed at the time of the MINING NEWS reporter’s visit at Iron River, both men being too weak to warrant probing for the balls.

Ed. Scott lived in Florence many years ago, his father having kept a restaurant and boarding house opposite the MINING NEWS office.
Postmarked August 24, 1908, this tinted halftone postcard view shows Iron River from Stambaugh Hill. The steeple of St. Agnes Catholic Church can be seen to the right of center, and the public school with its red-tinted roof is visible to the right of the church. The large building with the red roof to the left of center was the Boyington Hotel, located on Genesse Street.
This unused postcard view of Iron River, dating between 1940 and 1950, was also taken from Stambaugh Hill. [WJC Photo]
Another unused postcard view dating between 1940 and 1950 is identified as a “Birdseye View of Iron River, Mich.” The First Lutheran Church is at lower right. [WJC Photo]
Yet another unused postcard view dating between 1940 and 1950 is identified as a “Birdseye View of Iron River, Mich.” [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 10, 1909, this printed postcard view, identified as Main Street (Genesee Street) in Iron River, looks west. A drug store is visible at the left and the large glass window on the second story of the next large structure served as a skylight for the photographer’s studio, probably operated by either Olaf Hansen or E.A. Van Buren. [WJC Photo]
E.A. Van Buren operated a photographic studio in 1910 on Genesee Street at First Avenue. He operated his studio for 24 years, closing in 1934 to enter the resort business in Crystal Falls. The Boyington Hotel with the two-story porch, located farther west at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets, was operated by Andrew Jackson Boyington. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked April 12, ca. 1910 [date not printed] this tinted halftone postcard depicts Carnival Week on Genesee Street (Main Street) in Iron River, looking west. The Boyington Hotel was located on the corner of Genesee and Second Streets. The banner over the street advertises cigars, reading “Smoke Iron River’s Favorite Cigars.” Note the ice cream cone stand at the right. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 20, 1914, this halftone postcard shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. The sign for a drug store is barely visible at the left and the large glass window on the second story of the next large structure served as a skylight for the photographer’s studio, probably operated by either Olaf Hansen or E.A. Van Buren. The Boyington Hotel with the two-story porch, located farther west at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets, was operated by Andrew Jackson Boyington. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked May 3, 1917, this halftone postcard view is identified as “Main Street (Genesee Street) Looking West, Iron River, Mich. A drug store is visible at the left and the large glass window on the second story of the next large structure served as a skylight for the photographer’s studio, probably operated by either Olaf Hansen or E.A. Van Buren. The Boyington Hotel with the two-story porch, was located farther west at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets, operated by Andrew Jackson Boyington. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 12, 1955, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. Businesses identified include the Boyington Hotel at the intersection of Second Street; J.J. Newberry Company which opened in July, 1931, and was enlarged to twice its original size in February, 1948, at 211-215 West Genesee Street, on the left side of the street. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 12, 1955, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. Businesses identified include Melstrom’s Walgreen Agency Drugs, opened by Earl Melstrom at 216 Genesee Street in early March, 1941, next to Quirt Hardware Store on the right side of the street. [WJC Photo]
This colored postcard view, copyrighted in 1956, shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. The Boyington Hotel, on the corner of Second Street, was covered in asphalt siding when this photograph was taken. Malmgren’s Walgreen Agency Drug Store can be seen midway down the right side of the street. Located at 311 Genesee Street, construction of the new Red Owl grocery store began November 15, 1946, and James McLead opened the new store February 28, 1947. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked April 15, 1914, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. The sign over the small shop between the two buildings with diamond-shaped windows in the attic reads Escanaba Steam Laundry Cleaning & Dye Works. Note the early automobile parked in front of the brick building and the advertising signs on the wall of the building at the left. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked May 3, 1917, this halftone postcard shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. The First National Bank (left), located at the corner of Third and Genesee Streets, was completed in August, 1909. Automobile traffic seems to have replaced the horse and buggy or wagons as the preferred mode of transportation. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked July 23, 1926, this postcard view shows West Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. Businesses identified include Pryne, The Woman’s Shop; Miners’ State Bank which opened in 1912 and constructed its building in 1913; Joseph’s Tog Shop, and the First National Bank, at the intersection with Third Street. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked May 28, 1937, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. Businesses identified include Skog’s Dress Shop and Beauty Parlor, opened in 1925 by Mrs. Hilding (Esther Skog) Swanson and Mrs. Andrew E. (Bertha Skog) Johnson; The Dutch Pantry, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gibbs in the 1930’s and 1940’s; Miners’ State Bank, constructed in 1913; and the First National Bank, all on the left side of the street. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked May 28, 1937, this postcard view shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. Businesses on the right side of the street include Mertins Café, formerly the Majestic, then Davidson’s, which was sold to Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Mertins in August, 1926; the Light & Power Company; and the J.C. Penny Company which opened August 22, 1924, under the management of Waino Lahti and was expanded in 1948. [WJC Photo]
This postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking east. Businesses identified include Skog’s Dress Shop and Beauty Shop; Saigh’s Cocktail Lounge, opened by Fred Saigh in 1936, the license sold to Al Dominici around 1950; Miners’ State Bank, and the First National Bank on left side of the street, and the J.C. Penny Company, the Light & Power Company and Mertin’s Café on the right side of the street. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked April 14, 1909, this tinted halftone postcard shows the northeast corner of Third and Genesee Streets, Iron River. The First National Bank operated from February, 1907, to March, 1933, when the bank holiday closed all the banks in the country. The bank building, designed by a Green Bay firm, was completed in August, 1909. The Iron River National Bank was opened in April, 1934, with Earl J. Van Ornum as president. The bank has been remodeled a number of times. [WJC Photo]
The Reporter Building was next door to the bank building. Edward P. Lott, a local attorney, founded the *Iron River Reporter*, the first issue appearing on August 29, 1885. The paper was operated by Lott for two years and was then purchased by Pat O’Brien and the name changed to the *Iron County Reporter*, and shortly thereafter to the *Iron River and Stambaugh Reporter*. From 1887 to 1921 the *Iron River and Stambaugh Reporter* operated as a weekly and a bi-weekly. It became *The Reporter* in about 1969, retaining that title until October, 1970, when it again became the *Iron River Reporter*. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked June 11, 1912, this tinted halftone postcard view, published by Russell’s Bakery, shows the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. The First National Bank opened the doors to its new building in August, 1909. The Reporter Building was located next door on Genesee Street. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked July 5, 1911, this tinted halftone postcard view shows the First National Bank and The Reporter building, located at the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. This postcard view was published by Emil Ammermann, the owner of Iron River’s first drug store. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked July 19, 1911, this postcard view shows the First National Bank and The Reporter Buildings at the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. Greene’s Cafe was located on the first floor of The Reporter building. [WJC Photo]
This halftone postcard view, dating between 1910 and 1915, shows the First National Bank and The Reporter building at the northeast corner of Genesee and Third Streets, Iron River. Published by the Iron River Pharmacy, this view shows many of the buildings farther east on Genesee Street. [WJC Photo]
Barney Krom arrived in Iron River from Watersmeet in 1897, and leased the old Bond building. His successful store quickly outgrew the building and the adjoining Gordon building was purchased, connected to the Bond building by an archway. [eBay]
In 1909, Barney Krom erected this large, fireproof structure. During his career he established three partnerships: the first with Joe Joseph, 1916-1918; the second with I. Malsin, a brother-in-law, 1923-1925; and the third with his son, Arthur D. Krom. [eBay]
Souvenir Plate, Krom’s Department Store, ca. 1910-1915  [WJC Photo]
Souvenir Plate, Krom’s Department Store, ca. 1910-1915 [WJC Photo]
This colored postcard view, dating between 1960 and 1970, shows Genesse Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. Ben Franklin was opened by Albert Sartori of Crystal Falls in 1963 in the Masonic Building at 401 Genesee Street. The Masonic Building had been occupied by the A & P grocery store for many years. Fred J. Russell operated a news agency and also sold confectionery and fruits next door. Coast to Coast Hardware and Supplies was on the next block in the Nasser Building. [WJC Photo]
This colored postcard view, dating between 1960 and 1970, shows Genesee Street (Main Street), Iron River, looking west. On the south side of the street (left) the Coast to Coast Stores Hardware and Supplies was opened by Walter Carlson in July, 1962, in the Nasser Building, and the business was given a facelift in August, 1967. The Melstrom Drug Store, relocated to 310 West Genesee in 1960, was sold to Jim and Delores Sapletal in 1967, and became Jim’s Walgreen Pharmacy. [WJC Photo]
Continuing on the south side (left) of the Genesse Street the J.C. Penny Company was next to Jim’s Walgreen Pharmacy. Next was the Upper Peninsula Power Company at 319 West Genessee Street, and finally Mertins Café. Al’s and Sal’s Bar, at the corner of Genesee Street and Second Avenue (right side of street), was opened at this site by Al and Sal Dominici in March, 1967. Continuing east on the north (right) side of the street were Miners’ State Bank, the Ben Franklin Store and The Shoe Box, which opened at 414 Genesee in 1949. [WJC Photo]
This postcard view, dating between 1930 and 1940, was taken at the intersection of Third and Adams Streets, Iron River. A gas station at the corner and then a building housing the Western Union office were on the left side at the corner. The Johns Funeral Home which operated from 1912 through April, 1959, is on the right side of the street at the corner. Albert Pori and John Cain operated Cain’s Shoe Shop operated at 429 Third Street in the late 1920’s, and the store was also located in the Warshawsky Building for a time. The Cloverland Hotel was next door and an unidentified drug store followed. [WJC Photo]
This postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows the Iron River Town Hall, located at the corner of _____ and _____ Streets. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 1, 1908, this halftone postcard view shows The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River. [WJC Photo]
Cyrus H. Sensiba built the hotel in 1906, the date appearing above the doorway. W.W. Moss’ Livery ran the Iron Inn Hotel Bus. [WJC Photo]
This halftone postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows the Hotel Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street. The Iron Inn Hotel, the oldest brick commercial building in Iron River, was constructed in 1906 by Cyrus H. Sensiba at a cost of $25,000. The 50-room hotel was fire-proof. Sensiba sold the hotel to C.A. Robinson in 1919. [WJC Photo]
C.A. Robinson expanded the hotel, constructing an 18-room addition in 1923, and the two lobby rooms at the front of the original building were added in 1928, bringing the front of the building in line with the sidewalk. Jim and Rudy Manci purchased the Iron Inn from the First National Bank in 1936. The building was named a Michigan State Historical Site in 1974. [WJC Photo]
This postcard view, dating between 1940 and 1950, shows The Iron Inn, 200 West Adams Street, Iron River, looking ______. At the left, a gas station selling Texaco products is visible. The Iron Inn is at the corner of West Adams and Second Streets. A service garage is located next door. [WJC Photo]
At the corner of West Adams and Third Streets is the Delft Theater, which opened December 1, 1921. Designed by Architects Herbert and Koenzi, of Milwaukee, in the Dutch Renaissance Style, the theater cost $75,000 and had a seating capacity of 750 until the concession stand was added. [WJC Photo]
When Olaf Hansen came to Florence, Wisconsin, from Hauges, Norway, in 1886, he apprenticed as a photographer under Jorgen J. Eskil, the foremost photographer on the Menominee Iron Range. In 1890 Hansen moved to Iron River where he set up a studio at 217 Adams Street. Note the skylight and large window. [Iron County Historical Museum]
Andrew Jackson Boyington opened his hotel, the Boyington House, on November 1, 1882, at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets Iron River. His first hotel, pictured, was completely destroyed by fire on June 27, 1885. [Iron County Historical Society Photo]
Andrew Jackson Boyington rebuilt the hotel destroyed by fire, the new hotel opening on July 1, 1886. Note that the two-story porch had not been added when this photograph was taken. A horse-drawn bus was used to bring guests from the railroad depot. Boyington stood with his arm resting on the telephone pole. [Iron County Historical Society Photograph]
When this photograph of the second Boyington House, located at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets, Iron River, was taken, the two-story porch had been added. Note the architectural details over the windows and the gingerbread decoration on the two gables. [Iron County Historical Society Photo]
Postmarked July 29, 1909, this tinted halftone postcard view, published by Emil Ammermann, is identified as “The New Boyington Hotel, Iron River, Mich.” The structure was located at the corner of Genesee and Second Streets. Note the horse-drawn “bus” used to transport guests between the railroad depot and the hotel. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked July 7, about 1910 (year missing), this tinted halftone postcard view shows the “Hotel Boyington, Iron River, Mich.” Andrew Jackson Boyington turned the hotel over to his son, Philip Boyington, who ran the hotel for a time and then sold the hostelry to Mr. Zykowski. Mrs. Laura Zykowski, his widow, sold it to Bernard Mariani on October 1, 1946. He had the hotel demolished on July 10, 1966. [WJC Photo]
The first priest to visit Iron County’s mining and lumbering camps was Father Melchior Faust, of Iron Mountain. From 1882 to 1885 priests offered Mass in the school building and stayed in private homes. Iron River’s first Catholic church was built in 1885. Three years later the first rectory was constructed. Father James Lenhart began his 37-year pastorate at St. Agnes on Sept. 1, 1898. He quickly rallied parishioners for a larger church. The cornerstone for the new structure was laid Nov. 28, 1901. On Dec. 8, 1954, a fire started in the kitchen area and spread quickly throughout the church, consuming the entire pine structure. Dated 1907 on the back of this halftone postcard view published by Emil Ammermann, owner of Iron River’s first drug store, shows St. Agnes Catholic Church. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked May 6, 1912, this tinted halftone postcard view shows St. Agnes Catholic Church and Parsonage, 704 Fourth Avenue. The cornerstone was laid November 28, 1901, and the cost of the new structure, boasting a 110-foot Gothic tower, was $15,000. Following the 1954 fire, a new brick church was constructed and was dedicated November 25, 1956. [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1907 and 1918, this unused postcard view shows the interior of St. Agnes Church decorated for Christmas. The high altar in the center was donated by William Murphy, while the Blessed Virgin’s Altar at the left was donated by John McGillis and St. Joseph’s Altar at the right was donated by Joseph and Charles Malinowski. [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1925 and 1942, this postcard view shows St. Mary’s Catholic Church and Parsonage. A growing colony of Polish-speaking Catholics organized as a congregation in about 1900, and in 1903 formed a fraternity under the patronage of St. Joseph. In 1911, eleven lots situated in the Youngs Addition were purchased for $4,000, and the first church was built by the congregation between the spring of 1910 and the fall of 1911 at a cost of $4,500. [WJC Photo]
Construction of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, at a cost of $60,000, began in 1920 under leadership of Father J.F. Kulczk. The architect was I.E. Brielmaier, of Milwaukee. The church was dedicated July 9, 1922, and finally completed in 1923. [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1925 and 1940, this postcard view shows the First Methodist Episcopal Church, Iron River. The Methodists erected a church on lots donated by the McKinnon brothers, the city’s founders, the new church being dedicated early in the summer of 1900. During the pastorate of Rev. W.B. Coombe (1918-1920) the church was moved to a new basement immediately west of its original location. [WJC Photo]
In 1938 the church was moved to a new location at Fifth and Maple Streets, and a short time later the name was changed to St. Paul’s Methodist Church. The Iron River Post Office was built on the site vacated by the removal of the church. On June 1, 1957, the church became the Wesley Union Methodist Church with the merger of the congregations of St. Paul’s Methodist of Iron River and First Methodist of Stambaugh. [WJC Photo]
Dated 1907, this halftone postcard view, identified as the “High School, Iron River, Mich.” Published by Emil Ammermann, owner of Iron River’s first drug store, the notation indicates the school was constructed for $35,000. [WJC Photo]
Another halftone postcard, dating between 1910 and 1920 and published by Emil Ammermann, shows the Iron River High School. The contract for the new Central School was let to Newman and Johnson for $20,475 on May 21, 1904. Conover brick and adamant plaster were used in constructing the building which was dedicated April 22, 1905. The building contained ten large classrooms, an 500-seat assembly hall with a large stage on the first floor for lecture purposes, laboratory and recitation rooms, an office and a library. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked September 12, ca. 1911-1915 (year not printed), this sepia halftone postcard view of Iron River High School was published and copyrighted by Emil Ammermann, the owner of Iron River’s first drug store. Wings were added in 1910 at a cost of $3,600. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked April 27, 1916, this tinted halftone postcard view shows Iron River High School after wings were added to either end of the Central School’s original structure, the contract being let in May, 1910, for a total of $3,600. In late August, 2012, plans to transform the former Central School, at 218 West Cayuga Street, into the Apple Blossom Apartments were announced. The first floor will include commercial space and a community room in the old auditorium and the second and third floors will contain 22 apartments. [WJC Photo]
Souvenir Miniature Vase, New Iron River High School, ca. 1910-1915  [WJC Photo]
Postmarked September 4, 1949, this postcard view shows the new Iron River High School. The three-story brick structure was dedicated February 22, 1928. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked April 15, 1908, this postcard view is identified as “Fourth St. North, Iron River, Mich., No. 6 1908.” This postcard view was taken looking south from the railroad tracks. St. Agnes Catholic Church dominates the block in this early view. The church’s cornerstone was laid November 28, 1901. [WJC Photo]
This unused tinted halftone postcard view, dating between 1910 and 1920, is identified as “Fourth and Cayuga St., Iron River, Mich.” Early residences line the street. [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1940 and 1950, this halftone postcard view is identified as the “Former Home of Carrie Jacobs Bond, Iron River, Mich.” Carrie Jacobs Bond, wife of Dr. Frank Bond, her childhood sweetheart, lived with her husband in Iron River for seven years. Her husband died of injuries from a fall, and Carrie left Iron River for Chicago in 1895. She became a composer and singer of note, earning more money writing songs than any woman of her day. [WJC Photo]
Perhaps her most famous song – “I Love You Truly” – was written in memory of her dead husband in the 1890’s. She composed some 200 songs, including “A Perfect Day.” She sang for Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Warren G. Harding, and counted Sarah Bernhardt as a friend and admirer. She died in her home in Hollywood December 28, 1946. Her home was moved to the Iron County Museum complex in Caspian in October, 1978, and restored in 1980. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked September 1, 1908, this halftone postcard view is identified as “Loading Slabs at the Stave Factory, Iron River, Mich.” The Buckeye Lumber and Stave Mill, located between Bruno Hall and the Paint River, began operation in the late 1890’s. [WJC Photo]
Fish Hatchery, Iron River, Iron County, Michigan, ca. 1920-1930 [WJC Photo]
This unused, tinted halftone postcard view, dating between 1910 and 1920, shows the “Bates Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Located on the NW and N ½ of SW and part of S ½ of SW, Section 19, T43N, R34W, the Bates Mine opened in 1910, operated originally by the Bates Iron Company and later by the Hanna Iron Ore Company. The mine reached a depth of 2,040 feet and closed in 1947, having shipped 4,054,666 tons between 1915 and 1947. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 3, 1912, this halftone postcard view shows the “Concrete Shaft, Roger’s Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Located in the SW Sec. 21 and W ½ and NE of Sec 29 – T43N, R34W, the Rogers Mine opened in 1912, the year this postcard was mailed. It was first operated by the Munro Iron Mining Company and then the Hanna Iron Ore Company. The mine was 500 feet deep and shipped a total of 2,907,375 tons between 1914 and 1945. No ore was shipped in 1921, 1934, 1938-1939 and 1943-1944. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 31, 1912, this postcard view is identified as “Diamond Drill Near Iron River, Mich.” Diamond drilling was done to produce core samples to determine the location of iron ore at various depths. The full height of the diamond drill rig pictured above is not visible. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view by the Iron Range Studio, dating between 1920 and 1930, shows two miners using a Rand drill. Note the drill bits lined up against the rock wall, and the air hoses used to supply the compressed air which ran the drill. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked December 11, 1911, this halftone postcard view shows the “Shaft House, Chatham Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Posing at the shaft house in preparation for a day’s work in the depths of the mine, these miners were using miner’s candlesticks with shields to work in the mine. [WJC Photo]
This tinted halftone postcard view shows “The Hiawatha Mine, Stambaugh District, Iron River, Mich.” The Munro Iron Mining Company began operating the Hiawatha No. 1 iron mine in 1893. This complex grew to include several smaller mines and mining properties: the Anna Mine, North Hiawatha property, West Hiawatha property, Chatham Mine, Stegmiller property, and the east half (the producing half) of the Wickwire Mine. The Hiawatha No. 1 Mine was incorporated into the Hiawatha Group in 1943 by the Hanna Iron Ore Company. The main workings boasted 18 levels developed to a depth of 2,100 feet. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 29, 1912, this tinted halftone postcard view shows the “Wickwire Mine, Iron River, Mich.” Located in the NE-NW and NW-NE, Section 35, T42N, R35W, the Wickwire Mine opened in 1911, and was first operated by the Wickwire Mining Company. The mine was 313 feet deep and shipped a total of 128,869 tons between 1911 and 1917, with no shipments in 1915. The productive part of mine became part of Hiawatha No. 1, operated by the Hanna Iron Ore Company. [WJC Photo]
This postcard view, dating between 1925 and 1942, shows “Modern Logging, Iron River, Mich.” Copyright by the Iron Range Studio, Iron River, Mich., a steam hauler is shown, as well as a team of horses at the left. [WJC Photo]
MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP

- **MANSFIELD.** Iron County: The adjacent mine was developed by the Mansfield Mining Company. The village was platted in 1889 by W.S. Calhoune, who had discovered ore in profitable quantities here. The railroad was extended to the site in 1890, and John Erikson became the first postmaster on July 23, 1891. The waters of the Michigamme River seeped into the mine workings in September, 1893, and brought death to 27 miners. By providing a new channel for the river, the mine was later redeemed and was operated for some years by the Oliver Iron Mining Company. The post office was closed on May 15, 1913.

Mansfield Township was established in 1891 when Dickinson County was formed.
• **ALPHA**

• **DUNN/DUNN MINE**, Iron County: Dunn was a settlement around the Dunn Iron Mining Company, with a station on the Menominee River branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884. The depot was named Dunn Mine, as was its post office, which opened April 11, 1890, with Nelson J. Webb as its first postmaster. The name of the post office was shortened to Dunn on October 31, 1894, but closed on November 30, 1900.

• **MASTODON**, Iron County: *See Alpha.*

• **MASTODON MINE**, Iron County: Alfred Breitung, of Marquette, opened the Mastodon Mine in 1881. Louis Newman became the first postmaster of its settlement on January 21, 1884. The post office was closed on November 12, 1887, but was restored from April 3, 1888 to February 13, 1896. After the village of Mastodon took the name Alpha, the village of Mastodon Mine became known as Mastodon. It was in Marquette County until Iron County was organized in 1885.

Mastodon Township was one of the original five townships established when Iron County was formed in 1885.
MASTODON TOWNSHIP

• **PANOLA**, Iron County: Panola was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884. The pine and blueberry plains lying east of here are known as Panola Plains.

• **STAGER**, Iron County: **Harvey Mellen**, a U.S. land surveyor, discovered iron ore in this district in 1851, but the mining of iron ore did not begin until 1882. In that year the district was opened when the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad reached Iron River, with a spur from Iron River Junction, now Stager. Stager Lake is nearby and the name is understood to refer to a stag or deer.

Mastodon Township was one of the original five townships established when Iron County was formed in 1885.
ALPHA, MASTODON TOWNSHIP

ALPHA, Iron County: This iron mining settlement with a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, in Crystal Falls Township, was in Marquette County until Iron County was organized in 1885. Alfred Breitung, of Marquette, opened the Mastodon Mine near here in 1881 and the community was given a post office named Mastodon on October 1, 1883, with Herbert Hughitt as its first postmaster. This post office was closed on December 7, 1888, but the village was given another named Alpha on December 15, 1913, with William H. Peters as its postmaster. The settlement was incorporated as the village of Alpha in 1914.
This unused postcard view, dating between 1907 and 1918, is identified as “Pit View, Alpha, Mich.” The Village of Alpha is located in southeastern Iron County and began as a mining settlement. The Mastodon Mine opened in 1882 several miles south of Alpha. This venture did not survive the Panic of 1893. In 1910 the Pickands-Mather Company began large scale exploratory operations in the area. [WJC Photo]
The Alpha settlement was platted north of the operations by the Nevada Land Company. Streets radiated east, west and south from the Balkan Mine which began operating in 1915. The town was given the same for a letter of the Greek alphabet, one of several towns like this in Michigan. It became a village in 1914, when development peaked. A village water system was also installed in 1914, as was electric lighting. Six passenger trains a day stopped in Alpha in 1914 on the Chicago & Northwestern Railway line which had been extended through the area in 1882. By the early 1930's, all mining activity had ceased in the area. [WJC Photo]
STAMBAUGH TOWNSHIP

Stambaugh Township was established June 14, 1886, being set apart from Iron River Township.

- **CASPIAN**
- **ELMWOOD**, Iron County: When opened in 1887, this depot on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was named Paint River, since it was near the Paint River. The settlement was given a post office as Paint River on November 15, 1887, with John F. Brenvel as its first postmaster. The spelling was changed to Paintriver on February 8, 1895, but the office was closed on July 31, 1901. The station was renamed Elmwood by 1898.

- **GAASTRA**, Iron County: The tract upon which the city is located was selected by Alfred Kidder, of Marquette, in 1879, and he received his patent to it in 1881. Kidder conveyed it to Andrew Young in 1884. Edwin H. Piper owned it in 1902, and in October, 1908, Douwe Gaastra, a building contractor and real estate speculator, bought it and platted the village named for him. Merchant Olaf A. Olson became its first postmaster on September 26, 1914, serving until he retired in 1953. Gaastra was incorporated as a village in 1919 and as a city in 1949.
Stambaugh Township was established June 14, 1886, being set apart from Iron River Township.

- **NEW CASPIAN**, Iron County: See Caspian.
- **NEWTOWN**, Iron County: See Caspian.
- **PALATKA**: See Caspian
- **PAINT RIVER**, Iron County: See Elmwood.
- **PENTOGA**, Iron County: In 1896, Herman Velguth secured a large tract of timberlands southwest of Chicagon Lake and built a sawmill on the south shore of Indian Lake. This mill site became known as Pentoga, but before milling operations began, Velguth sold out to the Hood & Mahoney Lumber Company which moved the mill 2 ½ miles south to a site near the railroad and the river. The company retained the mill site name and their operations resulted in the establishment of the village of Pentoga in 1900. On March 27, 1900, Francis G. Hood became Pentoga’s first postmaster and the settlement was given a station on the Chicago & Western Michigan Railroad. Pentoga’s post office operated until January 30, 1937. The village was named for Pentoga Edwards, wife of John Edwards, chief of the local Chippewas. Pentoga is now a ghost town, but a county park on Chicagon Lake retains her name.
Stambaugh Township was established June 14, 1886, being set apart from Iron River Township.

- **SAUNDERS**, Iron County: *See Scott Lake*.
- **SCOTT LAKE**, Iron County: Named after a local pioneer family, this station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, built about 1883, was named **Saunders Spur**, and later just **Saunders**. It became the site of the **C. Hatterberg Lumber Company** veneer mill in 1889. On June 13, 1889, it was given a post office as Saunders, with **Robert Barclay** as its first postmaster. It is now a farming community.
- **SPRING VALLEY**, Iron County: *See Palatka*.
CASPION (PALATKA)
STAMBAUGH TOWNSHIP

CASPION, Iron County: Caspian was a station on a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884. A village was platted and recorded as Palatka in 1901 and given a post office of that name on April 12, 1906, with William G. Hanson as its first postmaster. Caspian was the headquarters of the Verona Mining Company, which operated the Caspian, Baltic, and Fogarty mines. To provide for more housing facilities, an adjacent village named Caspian was platted in 1908, and the Palatka post office was moved to it. The venture failed because the location was poor, and at a better site nearby the village of New Caspian was platted in 1909. The Palatka post office was moved to New Caspian in 1915 and renamed Caspian in 1918. Caspian was incorporated as a village in 1919. The place was also known locally as Spring Valley and as Newtown, but now it is known only as Caspian.
This postcard view, dated 1908 in the caption, is identified as “Caspian Location, Palatka, Mich., No. 12, 1908.” A portion of the front of what appears to be a store is visible at the left, Caspian Location is in the background and a mine shaft and engine house on the right. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard view, identified as the “Smuggler Mine, Palatka, Mich., No. 6 1908,” shows the mine shaft and tramway, engine house and other mining buildings. [WJC Photo]
The Smuggler Mine’s water wagon, a large barrel on wheels pulled by a horse, with a buggy behind and three boys and a dog, posed for the photographer on the road near Palatka, in this unused postcard dated 1908 in the caption. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked January 25, 1913, this postcard shows the Club House in Palatka.  [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 25, 1908, this printed halftone postcard, published by E. Ammermann, of Iron River, is identified as the “Caspian Mine, Spring Valley, Mich.” The Verona Mining Company worked Caspian Mine from 1903 until 1937, producing 6.6 million tons of iron ore from three shafts and five levels at a maximum depth of 539 feet. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked March 4, 1911, this tinted halftone postcard shows another view of the Caspian Mine, located in the Iron River District in Iron County, Michigan. The property description is NE Sec. 1 T42N-R35W, which is 160 acres between N46°3'56", N46°4'22", W88°37'0", and W88°37'37". [WJC Photo]
CHICAGON LAKE
STAMBAUGH TOWNSHIP

CHICAGON LAKE, Iron County: Andrew J. Blackbird’s Ottawa grammar gives She-gog for skunk and She-gog-ong, also She-kaw-gong, for Chicago, i.e. skunk place. Written in French orthography, the final g was dropped. Joutel’s spelling of the name survives here in Chicagon Lake.
Postmarked October 23, 1908, this is an halftone postcard view of the Indian Burying Ground at Chicagon Lake near Crystal Falls, Mich. According to Ojibwa funeral customs, upon death the corpse was washed, groomed, dressed in fine clothing, and wrapped in birchbark before burial in a shallow grave. Following death, the soul of the deceased was believed to journey westward for four days to an afterlife in the sky. [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1925 and 1942, this postcard view by the Iron Range Studio, Iron River, is identified as the “Chippewa Burying Ground, Chicagon Lake.” The funeral ceremony was attended by friends and relatives and was conducted by a Mide priest, who talked to the deceased and offered tobacco to the spirits.  [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1940 and 1950, this postcard again shows the Indian Burying Ground, Pentoga Park, Chicagon Lake. After the ceremony was concluded the body was removed through a hole in the west side of the wigwam to the grave site, where it was buried along with personal possessions. [WJC Photo]
Again dating between 1940 and 1950, this postcard shows another view of the Indian Burying Ground at Pentoga Park, Chicagon Lake. The door of the wigwam was not used when removing the deceased for fear that the departed soul would return through the door. [WJC Photo]
This unused postcard shows a bird’s-eye view of Stambaugh, Michigan. Another identical postcard was postmarked February 8, 1909, so this photograph would date no later than early 1909. Note the early water tower.  [WJC Photo]
Dating between 1950 and 1960, this is yet another postcard view of the Indian Burying Ground, Pentoga Park, Chicagon Lake. In later times a long, low, gabled plank house was constructed over the grave. The Plains Ojibwa also employed the gabled grave house and left offerings of food and water at the grave house for four days after burial for the soul's subsistence on its journey to the afterlife. [WJC Photo]
STAMBAUGH
STAMBAUGH TOWNSHIP

STAMBAUGH, Iron County: The lands embraced by the present city were originally assigned by the United States to Elizabeth Slaten in 1855, as the widow of War of 1812 veteran Joshua Slaten. In 1880, Jay C. Morse sold the site to Escanaba speculators Dr. Louis D. Cyr, Louis Stegmiller, and Richard L. Selden. They had John V. Sydam plat the village in 1882. Richard L. Selden became its first postmaster on May 18, 1882. The post office was closed on July 6, 1882, but was restored, with Mr. Selden again serving as postmaster, on July 28, 1882. The settlement was named for John Stambaugh, president of the Todd, Stambaugh Company, of Youngstown, Ohio, who had recently acquired the Iron River (also called Stambaugh) Mine. Stambaugh was incorporated as a village in 1890, with Mr. Stambaugh as its first president, and as a city in 1923. Stambaugh was in Marquette County until Iron County was organized in 1885.
THE NEW TOWN OF STAMBAUGH

The new town of Stambaugh on Iron river, is now laid out, and lots are ready for sale. For particulars enquire of William H. Selden, agent on the ground, or John Paul Jones, Florence. Stephen L. Selden will attend to the business at other points.
Considerable street work is being done, and our driveways are becoming many and good.

The road from Stambaugh station up to the town is one of the most picturesque little stretches imaginable. It winds its way up a giant mound, in cunning turns, walled by great trees and high banks on either side. A prattling brook trickles musically down, seemingly to sing on its way that beautiful sonnet of Tennyson’s, in which is found:

“For men may come and men may go,
But I go on forever.”
B.N. Riebel, one of our merchants, advertises his wife and warns any and all to beware of giving her anything on his account, stating as a reason that she has left him without cause. The little social disturbance is said to run thus: Mr. Riebel married the woman to be his second wife. He had several children and she objected to any of them staying at home. One day Mr. Riebel went to Sheboygan and brought his daughter back on a visit. The new wife, who is much younger than her husband, deliberately “got up and got.”

Several saloons have closed their doors recently, and other business is being conducted from hand to mouth, in the hopes of better times soon.

One hundred men are now employed in the Iron River mine, and ore is being shipped at the rate of from 50 to 70 cars per day.

In spite of the dull times considerable building is going on.
Stambaugh Stylographs.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

Business is picking up.
The hotel is being pushed.
Supt. W.B. Linsley, of the C. & N-W., was up this week.
T.W. Wilson and son, of Youngstown, Ohio, are here.
The firm style is now Buell & Taylor, Mr. Crooks having retired.
Supt. Porter’s residence is the finest one by all odds, on the Range.
W.H. Mack was a visitor here on Tuesday. He hadn’t been up since the railroad came in.
C.E. Brunelle has completed arrangements for opening a branch lumber yard here, for the Merick Lumber Co.
Thomas Larson, who opened up a neat bakery and confectionery establishment a short time ago, is doing well.

Charley White, of Florence, has opened a cosy little barber shop and is commencing to do well. He is a good barber.

Thos. Hannon has broken ground for a nice, large boarding house, 50x60 feet and two stories high, which is to cost about $3,000.

Mr. Fogarty is at the head of the energetic move to erect a Catholic church. He is a live man and has already procured three lots and nearly $1,000.

Henry Todd, son of ex-Governor Todd, of Ohio, who is connected with the Iron River Company, was looking over the company’s interests this week.

Stambaugh is still prospering in the way of improvements. New buildings are looming up most every day. The new hotel is up and sheeted and nearly roofed. It is greatly improved in appearance.
Our folks don’t like the way Iron River has acted about the road to Lake Chicagoan. It would have been more direct to have started at Stambaugh, which would have made the thoroughfare mutually beneficial.

Our would-be German plenipotentiary, or supervisor rather, who, with his staff was going on at railroad speed, with an unnecessarily extravagantly piece of work, which was to cost in the neighborhood of $10,000, irrespective of the wish of the majority of the tax-paying citizens of the Township, had a halt put to his gallop, by having an injunction served, the result of which has not yet been arrived at.

The annual school meeting was held last Monday and as I have been informed, they have voted for a term of ten months’ school and a female teacher. The board elected J.S. McLane, assessor and Pat. Fogarty, director, the latter of whom was appointed to that position in place of W.H. Selden, resigned. The District returned W.H. Selden a vote of thanks for the bell he presented the school district, which is now used to call the people together for Divine services, as well as the children to school.
The Iron River Co., is also building. It has built a powder-house, an oil house and is now building a magazine and under the management of F.P. Mills, who has charge of the Iron River Co’s. mining interests, everything in that way is progressing astonishingly and it certainly could not be otherwise under his control. It is admitted, by all who know him, that Mr. Mills is second to none in the upper [sic – Upper] Peninsula, as the theoretical and practical education he has received in mining, makes him equal to the wants of the extensive mining interests of the Iron River Co. The property leased by the company extends a mile along the Iron River, from the north end to the south end. The property has been opened in different places and ore has been found at each place and at each end there seems to be a great deposit. The vein is known to be ninety feet wide in one place and they are now stripping and have stripped [sic – stripped] ore seventy-two feet and do not yet know how much wider it is. The company has been shipping ore from the top of the ground without the aid of machinery thus far and can ship thousands of tons in this manner yet, but Manager Mills finds it necessary to put in machinery in some places, where the ore has been taken out down to or below the level of the railroad track.
To see the car loads [sic – carloads] of fine machinery arriving would make one think that the manager was also educated as a machinist, as well as in mining. He is now putting in an engine 16x23 for present use, while the Florence Iron Works build him two 18x24 engines, which, with six large drums, will be inclosed [sic – enclosed] in one building. In addition he has a small engine already housed and in operation and is putting up another at the south end of the property, which is called at present the “Saw-mill mine.” This is intended to both pump and hoist. The “Sam-mill mine” is now being stripped by Mr. Crook, who has taken the contract and has about thirty men to work with horses and push cars, stripping at a rapid rate. He has a vein of ore nearly one hundred feet wide exposed, which the company intends to commence shipping from soon.
STAMBAUGH HOUSE BURNS SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1886

A BAD BLAZE.


On Saturday evening last, at about 8:30 o’clock occurred the destruction of the Stambaugh House, at Stambaugh, Mich., one of the very finest hotels in this section of the country. The fire originated from a defective flue and obtained such a start before discovery that extinguishing it was an impossibility. The building and most of the furniture were owned by the Iron River Co., operators of the Iron River mine, at Stambaugh. The loss is placed at $10,000, with $4,000 insurance on building and $1,200 on furniture.
The Florence Mining News, Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, Volume VI, Number 31 [Saturday, July 31, 1886], page 4, column 2 [continued]

R.B. Barclay, lessee of the hotel, who had but recently taken charge, lost about $600, with no insurance. The company has not yet decided whether to rebuild. The hotel was opened three years ago and was a large house, well furnished and well kept. The particulars and details of the fire are given as follows by the special correspondent of the MINING NEWS at Stambaugh.

At about half past eight in the evening of July 24, the Stambaugh House was seen to be on fire. The fire was first discovered in the roof, around a chimney and had then made good headway and although the citizens responded promptly to the alarm, they were unable to subdue the fire, and so devoted their energy mostly to saving the contents and the adjoining buildings. The house of L. McQuown was in considerable danger, but was saved by prompt work. Rather senseless work was done by some in removing doors, windows, etc. which caused Mr. McQuown considerable loss. The building owned by C.E. Brunelle, of Chicago, was badly scorched. It was kept well wet down by the occupants and others, especially by some citizens of Iron River, several of whom worked well and deserve thanks. To some others there was not so much reason for being thanked. R.B. Barclay, the lessee of the Stambaugh House, lost considerable on which there was no insurance, including seven tons of hay.
The hotel building was owned by the Iron River Company and was insured for $4,200. The loss is about $10,000. There was an insurance of $1,200 on the furniture, considerable of which was saved. Mr. Barclay has moved into the Hannon House and will soon be ready to receive guests, so that the hungry and thirsty traveler need not fear to come to Stambaugh. The telephone which was saved from the Stambaugh House, is being put into the Hannon House for Mr. Barclay’s use. Miss Carrie Bishop and Miss Armstrong, of Menominee, were at the Stambaugh House when it burned. They have been taken care of by some of Stambaugh’s ladies. Others were glad to find quarters almost anywhere Saturday night. The Stambaugh House was doing a fine business. The fire was very unfortunate at this time and it is uncertain at this writing whether the hotel will be rebuilt.

The special correspondent of the MINING NEWS at Iron River, has this to say of the fire: “A very disastrous fire occurred at the village of Stambaugh, last Saturday evening at about 8:30 o’clock, by which the Stambaugh House, the only first class hotel in the village, was reduced to ashes, causing a great loss to the proprietor, Robert Barclay, and much more the Iron River Co., who were the owners of the building and a portion of the furniture.
The building is said to have cost in the neighborhood of $10,000, upon which there was an insurance of $4,200. Considerable damage was done to the greatest part of the furniture in its removal from the building. Bob Barclay had but removed into the house a short time ago as lessee and was just about getting into shape for active operation, when he was turned out so unexpectedly, which was very unwelcome news to many, owing to his popularity with the public. In fact there was a regular rush to the house. A greater crowd never having been there before than on the day it was reduced to ashes. Immediately on the loss of the Stambaugh House, Mr. J.N. Porter, the gentlemanly superintendent of the Iron River Co., who is never caught asleep, when any emergency arises, took steps and bought out the Hannon building for a hotel into which Mr. Barclay removed and which place he will have in first class running order before this is in print. The present place commands a more beautiful view of the adjoining village, of Iron River and the surrounding country, than could be had at the old stand and taking everything into consideration, the present location will eventually be more satisfactory than the old one with the slight difference of a couple of small rooms. The traveling public will be well attended to, as if nothing had happened.
L. McQouwn’s residence on the south, was more or less damaged and the Brunelle building on the north narrowly escaped. The thanks of the owner of this building are due to Paddy Vail, a saloon keeper, of Iron River, for his heroic fight with water and wet blankets, on the roof. Many others bravely done [sic – did] their part of the work, but Paddy takes the broom. No particular effort was made to check the progress of the flames, as everything was so dry and water so scarce, and fire engines were out of the question. It is evident that both villages could afford one steam fire engine between them and should have one.”

[There is a nice two-column cut of the Stambaugh House mid-way through this article, extending to the second column.]
This unused tinted halftone postcard view, dating between 1920 and 1930, is identified as “Bird’s-Eye View, Stambaugh, Mich.” Again, note the water tower. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked November 26, 1919, this postcard view shows the “Carnegie Library, Stambaugh, Mich.” On April 13, 1914, the Carnegie Corporation of New York granted Stambaugh $12,500 for the erection of a library. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked August 10, 1924, this view of the “Junior High School, Stambaugh, Mich.” was taken by the Iron Range Studio, Iron River, Mich. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked October 20, 1908, this postcard view shows the “LeRoy Hotel, Stambaugh, Mich.” The photographer is identified as “EdR.” [WJC Photo]
This postcard view of the LeRoy Hotel, Stambaugh, Michigan, shows the fire which destroyed the structure. The postmark on this historic card reads December 8, just one week after the fire. The photograph is again identified as “EdR”. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked July 24, 1908, this undivided back halftone postcard view shows the “Dober Mine, Stambaugh, Mich.” The Dober Mine was located at the NW Sec. 1 T42N-R35W, and was incorporated into the Riverton Iron Formation of the Paint River Group in 1882. The Oliver Iron Mining Company started operations at the Riverton Group in 1892. [WJC Photo]
In 1935 three properties of the Riverton Group – the Dober Mine, the Duff Mine and the Isabella Mine – became part of the Hiawatha Group as the Hiawatha No. 2 Mine, started by the American-Boston Mining Company. [WJC Photo]
Postmarked in Stambaugh, Michigan, on April 1, 1908, this postcard view is identified simply as “Logging in Northern Michigan.” Note the size of some of these logs. Two men – the driver and a lumberjack with a canthook – are standing on top of this load. [WHC Photo]
This photograph, probably dating between 1915 and 1925, shows the crew of “Kesler & Son, Stambaugh, Mich.” Four teams of horses and a Monarch steam hauler tractor posed for the photographer. Note the typical logging camp buildings constructed of logs and tarpaper in the background. [WJC Photo]
This photograph, probably dating between 1915 and 1925, shows Kesler and Son’s Monarch steam hauler tractor pulling three sleds of logs through the woods. [WJC Photo]
This photograph, probably dating between 1915 and 1925, shows Kesler and Son’s Monarch steam hauler tractor pulling three wagons of logs through the woods. Note the long logs on the last sled. [WJC Photo]
This photograph, probably dating between 1915 and 1925, shows Kesler and Son’s Monarch steam hauler tractor. Note the log lumber camp building at the left and the large tree stumps at the right. [WJC Photo]
MENOMINEE

RANGE

MEMORIES

THE END
ARMSTRONG, Iron County: Armstrong was a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1882, and was in Marquette County until Iron County was organized in 1885.

ATKINSON, Iron County: In about 1887, the Metropolitan Lumber Company, under the direction of J.K. Stack and Henry M. Atkinson, secured extensive pine holdings along the north and south branches of the Paint River. They built a large sawmill and general store and began the village, named for Mr. Atkinson, who supervised the firm’s operations here. Thomas G. Atkinson, secretary of the company, became the first postmaster on March 12, 1892. The post office was closed on October 14, 1905, and the village has now reverted into farmland. When the new township was organized in 1892, it was named for the same Mr. Atkinson.

BALSAM, Iron County: Balsam was a settlement with a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, 4 miles southeast of Amasa, in 1884. Frank C. Deming became its first postmaster on February 13, 1909, but the office was closed on November 15 of the same year. Balsam was named after the tree which dominates the area.

BASSWOOD, Iron County: Basswood was a station on a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, 12 miles southeast of Watersmeet, in 1894. A number of these railroad stops were named after forest trees.

CADIZ, Iron County: Cadiz was the take-off point of a spur track of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad leading to the early Chicago Lake Mine in Sec. 26 T 43 R 34.
**CLINCH**, Iron County: Emily V. Leece became the first postmaster of this rural post office on October 20, 1899, the office operating until June 30, 1900.

**DUNN/DUNN MINE**, Iron County: Dunn was a settlement around the Dunn Iron Mining Company, with a station on the Menominee River branch of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884. The depot was named Dunn Mine, as was its post office, which opened April 11, 1890, with Nelson J. Webb as its first postmaster. The name of the post office was shortened to Dunn on October 31, 1894, but closed on November 30, 1900.

**EARLE**, Iron County: With the development of the Rogers Mine, Dr. George Washington Earle, director of the Wisconsin Land & Lumber Company, from 1889, platted and recorded the village of Earle on his lands in Bates Township in September, 1913, but the project failed and was abandoned.

**ELMWOOD**, Iron County: When opened in 1887, this depot on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad was named Paint River, since it was near the Paint River. The settlement was given a post office as Paint River on November 15, 1887, with John F. Brenvel as its first postmaster. The spelling was changed to Paintriver on February 8, 1895, but the office was closed on July 31, 1901. The station was renamed Elmwood by 1898.
GAASTRA, Iron County: The tract upon which the city is located was selected by Alfred Kidder, of Marquette, in 1879, and he received his patent to it in 1881. Kidder conveyed it to Andrew Young in 1884. Edwin H. Piper owned it in 1902, and in October, 1908, Douwe Gaastra, a building contractor and real estate speculator, bought it and platted the village named for him. Merchant Olaf A. Olson became its first postmaster on September 26, 1914, serving until he retired in 1953. Gaastra was incorporated as a village in 1919 and as a city in 1949.

GIBBS CITY, Iron County: Gibbs City was a sawmill settlement on the Paint River; named for R.F. Gibbs, a hardwood lumberman, who operated here from 1913 to 1921. Ame E. Raidle became its first postmaster on May 24, 1917, the office operating until October 31, 1952. Gibbs City is now a ghost town.

GREAT WESTERN, Iron County: A mine was discovered and opened here by Solomon D. Hollister and George Runkle [sic – Runkel] in 1881, operated by the Great Western Mining Company. The mine is now inactive and reportedly a reserve holding. Its settlement was given a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884.

HAZEL, Iron County: Hazel was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad to the lumber communities in the area in the 1880’s. Like several others of these stops, it was named after forest trees. Its post office was Beechwood.

HEMLOCK, Iron County: See Amasa.
IRON RIVER JUNCTION, Iron County: See Stager.

KELSO JUNCTION, Iron County: Kelso Junction is believed to have been named for C.E. Kelso, of Manistique, a lumber and railroad company executive.

MANSFIELD, Iron County: The adjacent mine was developed by the Mansfield Mining Company. The village was platted in 1889 by W.S. Calhoun, who had discovered ore in profitable quantities here. The railroad was extended to the site in 1890, and John Erikson became the first postmaster on July 23, 1891. The waters of the Michigamme River seeped into the mine workings in September, 1893, and brought death to 27 miners. By providing a new channel for the river, the mine was later redeemed and was operated for some years by the Oliver Iron Mining Company. The post office was closed on May 15, 1913.

MAPLETON, Iron County: Mapleton, a farming community and the seat of Bates Township government, was located in an area of dense maple forests. Storekeeper Michael Krick became its first postmaster on July 26, 1910.

MASTODON, Iron County: See Alpha.

MASTODON MINE, Iron County: Alfred Breitung, of Marquette, opened the Mastodon Mine in 1881. Louis Newman became the first postmaster of its settlement on January 21, 1884. The post office was closed on November 12, 1887, but was restored from April 3, 1888 to February 13, 1896. After the village of Mastodon took the name Alpha, the village of Mastodon Mine became known as Mastodon. It was in Marquette County until Iron County was organized in 1885.
MAYWOOD, Iron County: Maywood was a station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. Charles Shaw became its first postmaster on August 22, 1900, the post office operating until December 14, 1903.

MINERAL HILLS, Iron County: Named from the very productive iron bearing hills in the area, Mineral Hills was incorporated as a village in 1918.

MONONGAHELA, Iron County: Monongahela was a mining location, its name reflecting the interests of Pittsburg iron industrialists in the area.

NANAIMO, Iron County: See Iron River.

NET RIVER, Iron County: See Parks Siding.

NEW CASPIAN, Iron County: See Caspian.

NEWTOWN, Iron County: See Caspian.

PAINT RIVER, Iron County: See Elmwood.
PALATKA, Iron County: See Caspian.

PANOLA, Iron County: Panola was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in 1884. The pine and blueberry plains lying east of here are known as Panola Plains.

PARKS SIDING, Iron County: This lumber settlement, on a siding of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, was founded by and named for John Parks, a local lumberman. From its location just west of the Net River, it was given a post office as Net River on December 9, 1907, with Herbert E. Hesetine as its first postmaster. The post office operated until May 31, 1910.
PENTOGA, Iron County: In 1896, Herman Velguth secured a large tract of timberlands southwest of Chicagon Lake and built a sawmill on the south shore of Indian Lake. This mill site became known as Pentoga, but before milling operations began, Velguth sold out to the Hood & Mahoney Lumber Company which moved the mill 2 ½ miles south to a site near the railroad and the river. The company retained the mill site name and their operations resulted in the establishment of the village of Pentoga in 1900. On March 27, 1900, Francis G. Hood became Pentoga’s first postmaster and the settlement was given a station on the Chicago & Western Michigan Railroad. Pentoga’s post office operated until January 30, 1937. The village was named for Pentoga Edwards, wife of John Edwards, chief of the local Chippewas. Pentoga is now a ghost town, but a county park on Chicagon Lake retains her name.

PORTER, Iron County: Porter was also called Amasa Porter. The Nevada Mining Company developed a mine here in 1914. A sand cave-in resulted in the death of 16 miners on February 21, 1918. Located five miles south of Amasa, the settlement was probably named for industrialist H.H. Porter.
ROGERS, Iron County: The Rogers-Brown Mining Company developed the Rogers Mine in about 1912 and built homes for the miners and their families. The village is also referred to as the Rogers Location or simply as the Rogers.

ROSEBUSH RANCH, Iron County: See Triangle Ranch.

SAUNDERS, Iron County: See Scott Lake.

SCOTT LAKE, Iron County: Named after a local pioneer family, this station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, built about 1883, was named Saunders Spur, and later just Saunders. It became the site of the C. Hatterberg Lumber Company veneer mill in 1889. On June 13, 1889, it was given a post office as Saunders, with Robert Barclay as its first postmaster. It is now a farming community.

SPRING VALLEY, Iron County: See Palatka.

STAGER, Iron County: Harvey Mellen, a U.S. land surveyor, discovered iron ore in this district in 1851, but the mining of iron ore did not begin until 1882. In that year the district was opened when the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad reached Iron River, with a spur from Iron River Junction, now Stager. Stager Lake is nearby and the name is understood to refer to a stag or deer.
TAMARACK, Iron County: Tamarack was a spur take-off from the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad to the lumbering communities in the area. Like several others of these stops, it was named after forest trees.

TRIANGLE RANCH, Iron County: Triangle Ranch was also called Rosebush Ranch for Judson Rosebush, of Appleton, Wisconsin, who founded it as an experimental cattle ranch in 1920. The project was given up during the Depression in the 1930’s.