Soldiers and sailors were captured marching north in a parade shortly after the end of World War I in this photograph, the only one found to date showing the early structures on the north end of the east side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue. Using the 1913 and 1925 city directories, the businesses include: 201, Wills & Carbis Meat Market, Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis, (1913) and the Holland Furnace Company, Nels T. Johnson, manager, (1925); 203, Oscar Sand, saloon (1913) and George Hoyle, paper hanger, painter and sign painter (1925); 207, Asp & Olson, Charles J. Asp and ----- Olson, notions and confectionery, cigars, tobaccos and stationery (1913) and Arthur C. Frankini, jewelry store (1925); 211, Gust Pederson, boot and shoe repair (1913) and Robert J. Scholke, tailor shop (1925); 213, Ray Porter, variety store, and The Columbia Restaurant, John Corombos and Stephen Papas (1925); 215, The London Store, Samuel Rusky and Julius Rusky, general merchandise, and Strand Brothers Furniture Company, Walter Strand, Ambrose C. Strand and Mrs. Bertha Strand, widow of Eric C. Strand, in the north half of the building and Charles T. Stolberg, tailor shop, in the south half of the building (1925); and 219, The Club, Eugene DeGayner, billiards, pool and bowling alley (1913) and Mitchell Hardware, Harry H. Mitchell, Thomas Mitchell and William Henry Mitchell (1925). Note the large number of early automobiles and the lack of any structures on the west side of the street. The Kingsford Motor Car Company garage is visible at the south end of the 100 block. The Chapin Mining
Company shops are visible in the distance beyond the 100 block. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

[NOTE: Dates, placed chronologically, are highlighted in boldface red letters for easier reading, and names of individuals and places are highlighted in boldface black letters to facilitate finding information.]

The 43rd installment of Menominee Range Memories, a series of articles by William J. Cummings, Menominee Range Historical Foundation historian, now available on the Dickinson County Library’s website, is titled “Downtown Iron Mountain Businesses – 201-219 South Stephenson Avenue.”

While the east side of the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue was one of the first principal business blocks in downtown Iron Mountain, no original buildings remain, as the First National Bank of Iron Mountain-Kingsford occupies the entire block.

An article on early Iron Mountain, published in the February, 1910 edition of the School Record, Iron Mountain High School’s student newspaper, recorded the following information:

Mr. Charles Parent should have the credit of having been the first general merchant as he came here in Nov. 1879, bringing a stock of general merchandise and commenced business in a tent. He was accompanied by his half-brother William. Their families were still in Marinette. He soon had a building in readiness, located on Stephenson Ave. between Ludington and Brown Streets. He was second postmaster. He continued business here many years and was a highly respected resident of the city until his death.

R.C. Philbrook commenced building about the same time as Mr. Parent. He put in a stock of general merchandise (general merchandise at that time included liquors). He was the first postmaster.

In Jan. 1880, Andrew Boyington and family came, Mrs. Boyington being the first woman in Iron Mountain. Mrs. William Parent did not come until April, 1880, a short time after the arrival of Thomas Hayes’ wife, and Mrs. Charles Parent came in July, 1880.

Mr. Boyington bought two lots and erected a two-story frame building. He was engaged in business here about two years and then removed to Iron River where he has since lived.

At about 10 o’clock on Friday evening, January 26, 1883, a fire broke out on the 200 block of South Stephenson Avenue. The following report is from the Saturday, January 27, 1883 edition of The Florence Mining News:

An extensive conflagration occurred at Iron Mountain Sunday night last, commencing at about ten o’clock. The fire began in the upper story of Oliver & Penglase’s saloon building, occupied by Mrs. Hartman, a widow lady, as a boarding house, and was caused by the fall and explosion of a lamp. Despite all efforts against it, the flames soon enveloped the building, and spread to the adjoining places, which were Laing Bros. meat market, Wm. Andrew’s clothing store, William Parent’s saloon, and the confectionery store owned by an old man commonly known as “The Old Dutchman,” and they were all destroyed together with their contents.

An Indian by the name of Steve Nichols was severely injured while engaged in fighting the fire and was carried from the scene in an insensible condition, with his face scorched and his eyesight seriously injured.
The loss is estimated at $10,000. Andrew’s loss is covered by $2,000 insurance, Parent’s by $1,000 and Laing Bros.’ by $700. Other property destroyed was uninsured. Oliver & Pengalze will commence the erection of a three-story brick building at once, and it is altogether probable that all will rebuild.

It was expected that Charley Ross’s saloon, Philbrook’s and Parent’s stores, and the Jenkins hotel, situated in the same block, would also be destroyed, and all were speedily emptied of their contents, with the exception of the store of Philbrook’s, the proprietor locking the door and preferring to trust his stock to the mercy of fire rather than to that of thieves. Much of C.M. Parent’s stock was stolen, while Ross misses ten boxes of cigars and a keg of beer.

NOTE: W.L. Laing’s meat market, William Parent’s saloon and William Pengalze’s saloon were located on Stephenson Avenue near Brown Street where the Asp and Olson Store (Charles Asp, proprietor, notions and confections, 207 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913); Oscar Sand’s saloon (Oscar and Hilda Sand, saloon, 203 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913) and the Wills and Carbis Meat Market (Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis, groceries and meats, 201 South Stephenson Avenue in 1913) stood in 1914, according to The History of Iron Mountain by the Iron Mountain Women’s Club, published February 20, 1914.

Due to the January 26, 1883 fire the city appointed a new fire warden and an ordinance was amended so that only stone or brick buildings could be erected in the business district.

History of 201: In 1892-1894 William Hocking ran a boarding house and sample rooms, serving “fine wines, liquors, cigars and bottled goods.” He advertised the “finest beer always on tap” and stated that “gentlemanly treatment” was “assured at all times.” From 1902-1903 through 1907-1908 Oscar Hersell sold liquors and cigars here.

An article in the April 21, 1910 edition of the Iron Mountain Press reported that Wills & Carbis (Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis), “meat and produce dealers,” had purchased the Oliver brick building at the corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street and would be occupying the new business site in the near future. The following week, the April 28, 1910 issue of the Iron Mountain Press detailed the improvements being made by Wills & Carbis under the headline “Many Improvements” as follows:

Wills & Carbis are remodeling their brick building at the corner of Stephenson avenue and East Brown street, for a meat market. A new front will be put in with a corner window. The three plate glasses in the front and corner windows will each be ninety by one hundred inches in size. The basement is being enlarged to forty by forty-five feet and a new hardwood floor will be laid in the market. A chemical refrigerator, with a cooling capacity of 10,000 pounds of ice in twenty-four hours,
will be installed and operated by an eight-
horse-power electric motor. It is expected
that the building will be ready and the
fixtures installed by June 1st. When
completed it will be the most up-to-date
market in the city.

Wills & Carbis (Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis) purchased the Oliver Brick Building at 201 South Stephenson Avenue on the northeast corner of South Stephenson Avenue and East Brown Street in April, 1910, selling “meat and produce.” This photograph dates to about that time. A new front was added with a corner window, the three plate glasses measuring 90 x 100 inches in size. The basement was enlarged to 40 x 45 feet and a new hardwood floor was laid in the market. A chemical refrigerator, with a cooling capacity of 10,000 pounds of ice in twenty-four hours, was installed, operated by an eight-horse-power electric motor. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

Wills & Carbis sold meats and vegetables at this address in 1913, having moved from 203 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1925 the Holland Furnace Company, managed by Nels T. Johnson, was located here. By 1935 William J. Carbis was operating a grocery store here and was still here in 1939. By 1941-1942 the business was the Carbis I.G.A., operated by Frank Carbis.
In 1946 the Strand Furniture Company, Walter Strand, proprietor, occupied this address. By 1961 S & H Green Stamps was located here. Still here in 1964.

NOTE: S&H Green Stamps were a line of trading stamps popular in the United States from the 1930s until the late 1980s. They were distributed as part of a rewards program operated by the Sperry & Hutchinson Company (S&H), founded in 1896 by Thomas Sperry and Shelley Byron Hutchinson. During the 1960s, the company promoted its rewards catalog as being the largest publication in the United States and boasted that it issued three times as many stamps as the U.S. Postal Service. Customers would receive stamps at the checkout counter of supermarkets, department stores and gasoline stations among other retailers, which could be redeemed for products in the catalog.

Thanksgiving turkeys and holiday hams, as well as sides of beef and even venison, hung around the store awaiting customers at the Hoose & Eaton Meat Market, located at 203 South Stephenson Avenue. In 1892-1894 the firm was called Jay W. Hoose & Co., with Edward H. Eaton being the “& Co.” By 1905 the men were partners. Thomas Wills, who later ran this meat market alone and in partnership with William J. Carbis, stands second from
the right with an "X" on his apron. Others pictured here in the late 1890s or early 1900s include Mrs. Eaton, Edward H. Eaton, Jay W. Hoose and George M. Guest. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

This photograph of the Wills & Carbis Meat Market, 203 South Stephenson Avenue, probably dates from around 1905 to 1907. By 1902 Thomas Wills, probably the man standing at the far right dressed all in white, ran a “meat market, provisions, etc.” at this address, but by 1907 the establishment was known as Wills & Carbis (Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis), offering “gro. [groceries], meats, fruits and vegetables.” Note the sides of beef hanging along the wall at the left with hams hanging above them. A variety of butcher saws and other tools are lined up along the wall at the back right. Booth’s Oysters came in cans and were very popular. Note the barrels at the left and the large baskets stacked at the right. Also note that the same marble-topped counter appears in this photograph and the preceding photograph. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

History of 203: Jay W. Hoose and E.H. Eaton operated the J.W. Hoose & Company store here in 1892-1894. Their meat market specialized in “fresh, dried, salted and smoked meats and sausages,” and also provided “game and fish in
season.” Hoose & Gage (Jay W. Hoose and Fred Gage) also had a livery sale and boarding stable at 100 West B Street at this time, advertising “general teaming and first class livery turnouts at reasonable prices.”


In 1902-1903 Thomas Wills ran a “meat market, provisions, etc.” at this address, but by 1907-1908 the establishment was known as Wills & Carbis (Thomas Wills and William J. Carbis), offering “gro. [groceries] meats, fruits and vegetables.”

By 1913 Oscar Sand ran a saloon at this location, and also lived here with his wife Hilda Sand.

This photograph of the Wills & Carbis Meat Market, 203 South Stephenson Avenue, probably dates from around 1910. By 1902 Thomas Wills ran a “meat market, provisions,
By 1925 George Hoyle worked as a paper hanger, painter and sign painter at this address, also specializing in “window glass, paints, picture framing” and particularly “sign writing.” George Hoyle was still selling paints from this address in 1935, and Robert Hoyle, his son, worked as a sign painter and lived here, probably upstairs, with his wife Audrey Hoyle. George Hoyle’s business was called the Hoyle Paint Shop by 1939, and still was listed under that name in 1941-1942.

In 1946, Hoyle’s Paint & Glass Store, George Hoyle, proprietor.

History of 207: In 1892-1894 G.A. Malmgren, a druggist, was a “Dealer in Drugs, Medicines, Toilet and Fancy Articles, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Books, Stationery, Cigars, Confectionery and Druggists’ Sundries,” at this location, and his advertisement further noted “Prescriptions accurately compounded.”

In 1902-1903 Louis Sjostrom ran a saloon here.

By 1907-1908 Asp & Olson (Charles J. Asp and ----- Olson) sold “confectioneries, cigars, tobaccos and stationery” at this address. The firm was still listed here in 1913, selling “notions and confectionery.” Charles J. Asp was listed as proprietor both in 1907-1908 and in 1913.

Arthur C. Frankini ran a jewelry store at this site in 1925, and still had his store at this location in 1935.

By 1939 the Farm Produce Market, Alice Lund, manager, operated here, and was still located here in 1941-1942 with William and Georgiana Nicholson listed as owners. Herbert J. Keller, a cashier and clerk at the State Surplus Store, also lived here with his wife Florence Keller in 1941-1942.

By 1946, K & G Refrigeration Service, encompassed 207-213 South Carpenter Avenue, using 207 as the street address. Alfred Klungness was listed as the proprietor.

By 1961 K & G Appliance & Gas Company (Alfred Klungness and James Klungness) occupied 203-207 South Carpenter Avenue, using 207 as the business’s street address. Northern Electronics Company (James Klungness and Charles R. Henry), radio and television repair, also conducted business at 207 South Carpenter Avenue.

By 1980 K & G Appliance & Gas Company (James Klungness, president) occupied 203-207 South Carpenter Avenue, using 207 as the business’s street address.

History of 211: In 1892-1894 John Hicks, billed as “the popular newsdealer” at this address, sold “Confectionery, notions, fancy articles, etc. Rubber stamps made made to order.” August “Gust” Pederson was listed as a “boot and shoe repairer” here in 1902-1903, and was still operating his shoe shop at this site in 1907-1908 and again in 1913.

By 1925 George Hoyle worked as a paper hanger, painter and sign painter at this address, also specializing in “window glass, paints, picture framing” and particularly “sign writing.”
George Hoyle was first listed in the 1907-1908 city directory as doing upholstering and paper hanging, as well as selling wall paper from his shop at 108 East Brown Street. In 1913 he still worked at the 108 East Brown Street location as a painter and paper hanger. This photograph probably dates between 1915 and 1920. By 1925, George Hoyle’s store, located at 203 South Stephenson Avenue, advertised “Window Glass, Picture Framing, Painting and Paper Hanging, Sign Writing a Specialty.” George Hoyle was still selling paints from this address in 1935, and Robert Hoyle, his son, worked here as a sign painter, living upstairs with his wife Audrey Hoyle at that time. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]
George Hoyle was still selling paints from this address in 1935, and Robert Hoyle, his son, worked as a sign painter and lived here, probably upstairs, with his wife Audrey Hoyle. George Hoyle’s business was called the Hoyle Paint Shop by 1939, and still was listed under that name in 1941-1942.

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Arthur C. Frankini ran a jewelry store at this site in 1925, and still had his store at this location in 1935.

By 1939 the Farm Produce Market, Alice Lund, manager, operated here, and was still located here in 1941-1942 with William and Georgiana Nicholson listed as owners. Herbert J. Keller, a cashier and clerk at the State Surplus Store, also lived here with his wife Florence Keller in 1941-1942.

By 1946, K & G Refrigeration Service, encompassed 207-213 South Carpenter Avenue, using 207 as the street address. Alfred Klungness was listed as the proprietor.

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By 1980 K & G Appliance & Gas Company (James Klungness, president) occupied 203-207 South Carpenter Avenue, using 207 as the business’s street address.

History of 211: In 1892-1894 John Hicks, billed as “the popular newsdealer” at this address, sold “Confectionery, notions, fancy articles, etc. Rubber stamps made made to order.” August “Gust” Pederson was listed as a “boot and shoe repairer” here in 1902-1903, and was still operating his shoe shop at this site in 1907-1908 and again in 1913.

Robert J. Scholke ran his tailor shop at this address in 1925, but by 1935 August “Gust” Pederson again ran his shoe repair shop here, still working at this location in 1939 and 1941-1942.

History of 213: In 1892-1894 Rabey & Thomas (John Rabey and William Thomas) specialized in “staple and fancy groceries, fruits, canned goods and vegetables, etc.” at this address.

J.A. Johnson operated a confectionery shop and resided here in 1902-1903.

In 1907-1908 Moses Khoury was selling “confectioneries, fruits and ice cream, etc.” at this location which was also his residence.

Ray Porter ran a variety store and resided at this address with his wife Edith Porter in 1913.

By 1925 The Columbia Restaurant, operated by John Corombos and Stephen Papas, was serving patrons here.

In 1935 the Farm Produce Market was conducted at this location by William
Nicholson, of Waucedah, Michigan, and Elmer Lund, of Norway, Michigan.

By 1939 the K & G Refrigeration Service Company, operated as a partnership by Alfred J. Klungness and Henry Goulette, was located at 213 South Stephenson Avenue, and was still listed here in 1941-1942.

By 1946, K & G Refrigeration Service, encompassed 207-213 South Carpenter Avenue, using 207 as the street address. Alfred Klungness was listed as the proprietor. This business was later located at 203-207 South Carpenter Avenue.

By 1961 the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Music Company (Wallace Swanson, president, and Mrs. Lois Swanson, vice-president), sold musical instruments at this address. Wallace Swanson was also the music instructor at Iron Mountain High School. Del's Restaurant (Frank C. and Mrs. Delgisa Caviani) was also located at this address in 1961.

In 1892-1894 D.H. Lieberthal ran a clothing store in the brick building he constructed at 215 South Stephenson Avenue in 1888. By 1902-1903 the Rusky Brothers (Samuel Rusky and Julius Rusky) operated their general merchandise store, known as The London Store, here. According to the sign, the store was closed on Friday, January 14 and the sale began Saturday, January 15 which dates this photograph to 1898. The firm was still in business here in 1907, listed as a “department store,” and again in 1913, listed as offering “general merchandise.” [Gene Derwinski/Dick Ferris]
The London Store, located at 215 South Stephenson Avenue by 1902, was all decked out for Christmas in this 1916 photograph. The Rusky Brothers (Samuel Rusky and Julius Rusky) operated this general merchandise establishment for many years. Note the woman with the fur muff to keep her hands warm standing at the far left. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

History of 215: An article in the March 14, 1885 edition Norway’s weekly newspaper The Current provided the following information:

Lieberthal Bros. & Co., of Iron Mountain, Mich., have opened a merchant tailoring department in connection with their large stock of clothing, dry goods, boots and shoes, etc. They carry a large assortment of imported and domestic cloths to select from, and guarantee a perfect fit or no sale. Give them a call for your spring suit.

In 1892-1894 D.H. Lieberthal ran a clothing store in the brick building he constructed here in 1888. This was not necessarily the site of Lieberthal Bros. & Co. noted in the above article.

In 1902-1903 the Rusky Brothers (Samuel Rusky and Julius Rusky) operated their general merchandise store, known as The London Store, at this location. The firm was still in business here in 1907-1908, listed as a “department store,” and again in 1913, listed as offering “general merchandise.”

By 1925 Walter and Ambrose C. Strand and Mrs. Bertha Strand, widow of Eric C. Strand, operated Strand Brothers Furniture Company in the north half of this building, advertising “The House of Quality” and selling “Furniture, Rugs and Stoves,”
and Charles T. Stolberg operated his tailor shop, advertising “Merchant Tailor, Altering, Pressing and Cleaning,” in the south portion. Both Strand Brothers Furniture Company and Charles T. Stolberg, tailor, still occupied this site in 1935. In 1939 the Strand Furniture Company, a partnership between Ambrose C. Strand and Walter Strand was still located here, and was still listed at this address, again as Strand Brothers Furniture Company, in 1941-1942, as was Charles T. Stolberg, owner of the Stolberg Tailor Shop. The C.T. Stolberg Tailor Shop operated here in 1946 and Carl T. Stolberg still worked as a tailor here in 1961.

In late January, 1908, Eugene J. DeGayner opened a billiard and pool room in the Parent building at 219 South Stephenson Avenue. DeGayner would harbor “no disorderly characters” and would “conduct the place in a manner to meet the approval of the better class of citizens.” At the time DeGayner hoped to add a two-run regulation bowling alley in the basement. This photograph, probably taken in about 1913 when DeGayner’s establishment was known as The Club, shows the two-lane bowling alley to the right. The sign at the upper right reads as follows: Stepping or Sliding Over the Foul Line Is Absolutely Prohibited on the Alleys. The man standing behind the counter may be Frank Morett, and the two pool players are unidentified. [Eugene DeGayner Photo]

History of 217: This actually may previously have been 215, as numbers changed over the years. By 1961 and again in 1964 Nissen Appliances (Anton S. Nissan) was listed at this address, advertising “Hotpoint, GE TV and Radio, Bottle Gas Sales and Service, Youngstown Kitchens.”
History of 217 1/2: By 1939 Dundon’s Actual Business College (Ruth F. Dundon and Richard F. Dundon) was listed at this address, the “1/2” indicating a location on the second floor, and was still listed in 1941-1942 and 1946.

History of 219: In 1892-1894 Charles E. Parent was still occupying the brick building bearing his name, constructed at this address in 1888. He dealt in “dry goods, carpets, boots, shoes, gents’ furnishings, groceries, provisions, flour, feed, crockery, glassware and general merchandise.”

Charles E. Parent was considered by some to have been the first merchant in Iron Mountain, as he arrived in November, 1879, bringing a stock of general merchandise and setting up business in a tent. He located on Stephenson Avenue between Ludington and Brown Streets shortly thereafter, very possibly on the same location as his store.

By 1902-1903 Anderson & Sundstrom (Charles E. Anderson and Ferdinand Sundstrom) ran their general merchandise store in this building.

The Electric Theater operated at this location in 1907-1908.

Eugene DeGayner ran The Club, offering billiards, pool and a bowling alley, at this location in 1913.

Mitchell Hardware Company (Harry H. Mitchell, Thomas Mitchell and William Henry Mitchell) was located here in 1925, having moved that year from 207 South Stephenson Avenue, and was still listed at this address in 1935, 1939 and 1941-1942, 1946. The building was sold to the First National Bank in 1977, when Thomas Mitchell and Harry Mitchell retired, and was razed in 1978 when the drive-in bank was established.