

# DICKINSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN, GAZETTEER

[Compiled by William J. Cummings for *Dickinson County, Michigan: From Earliest Times Through the Twenties*]

## COUNTY ORGANIZATION

**DICKINSON COUNTY:** Organized May 21, 1891, embracing T41N of R27W, T39N – T40N – T41N of R28W, T39N – T40N – T41N of R30W and T39N – T40N of R31W, all set off from Menominee County; T42N – T43N of R28W – R29W – R30W, all set off from Iron County; and T42N – T43N – T44N of R27W and T41N of R28W – R29W – R30W, all set off from Marquette County; named for Donald McDonald Dickinson (1846-1917), postmaster general under President Grover Cleveland and leader of the Michigan Democratic Party.

## TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

**BREEN TOWNSHIP:** Organized March 16, 1877, embracing T39N – T40N – T41N of R27W – R28 W (then part of Menominee County); boundary changes: (1) E ½ of T40N of R27W detached February 27, 1890, and attached to Spaulding Township; (2) T39N of R27W – R28W and W ½ of T40N of R27W detached February 27, 1890, and included in Meyer Township as organized; (3) T42N – T43N – T44N of R27W and T39N of R28W attached May 21, 1891, to Dickinson County as organized; (4) T39N – T40N of R28W and S ½ of T41N of R28W set off March 9, 1892, and organized as Waucedah Township; (5) T43N – T44N of R27 W detached October 19, 1908, and included in West Branch Township as organized; named for Thomas and Bartley Breen, timber cruisers from Menominee.

**BREITUNG TOWNSHIP:** Organized March 16, 1877, embracing T39N – T40N – T41N of R 29W – R30W – R31W and T41N of R32W (then part of Menominee County); boundary changes: (1) T39N – T40N – T41N set off December 30, 1880, and organized as Norway Township; T41N of R31W – R32W –R33W set off in 1885 and made part of Mastodon Township, Iron

County, as organized; (3) portions of Sections 19, 20, 29 and 30 of T40N of R30W and portions of Sections 24, 25 and 36 of T40N of R30W detached March 18, 1891, and attached to City of Iron Mountain; (4) N ½ of T40N of R30W set off March 1, 1901, and attached to Sagola Township; (5) NW ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 6 of T36N of R30W set off March 17, 1903, and attached to City of Iron Mountain; (6) NE ¼ of Section 35 of T40N of R31W set off March 19, 1908, and attached to City of Iron Mountain; named for Edward Breitung (1831-1887), iron mine capitalist from Negaunee.

**FELCH TOWNSHIP:** Organized October 9, 1882, embracing T42N – T43N of R29W – R30W – R31W (set off from Ely township, Marquette County); boundary changes: (1) T44N of R28W – R29W – R30W attached May 21, 1891, to Dickinson County as organized; (2) T44N of R29W and T42N – T43N – T44N of R30W set off March 9, 1892, and organized as Sagola Township; (3) E ½ of T43N – T44N of R28W detached October 19, 1908, and included in West Branch Township as organized; named for Felch Mountain Range, a belt of iron ore named for Alpheus Felch (1806-1896), governor of Michigan (1845-1847).

**NORWAY TOWNSHIP:** Organized December 30, 1880, embracing T39N – T40N – T41N of R29W (then part of Menominee County), set off from Breitung Township; named for Village of Norway located therein.

**SAGOLA TOWNSHIP:** Organized March 9, 1892, embracing T44N of R29W and T42N – T43N 0 T44N of R30W; set off from Felch Township; named for Village of Sagola located therein.

**WAUCEDAH TOWNSHIP:** Organized March 9, 1892, embracing T39N – T40N of R28W and S ½ of T41N of R29W, set off

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from Breen Township; named for Village of Waucedah located therein.

**WEST BRANCH TOWNSHIP:** Organized October 19, 1908, embracing T43N – T44N of R27W, set off from Breen Township, and E ½ of T43N – T44N of R28W, set off from Felch Township; named for the West Branch of the Escanaba River which passes through the area.

## SETTLEMENTS AND RAILROAD STATIONS

**ALFRED:** Established by the Lindsley Bros., cedar dealers in Menominee, as location for their shingle and post-splitting mill on the E. & L.S.R.R., then in Breen Township, later in West Branch Township; post office established December 8, 1903, with Andrew Kemmeter, postmaster; discontinued November 15, 1910; fire destroyed what little remained of Alfred May 17, 1914; probably named for Alfred Wells, son of John W. Wells, of Menominee, a lumberman operating in the area.

**BADWATER INDIAN VILLAGE:** Located in the SW ¼ of Section 29, T41N of R30W on the Menominee River, this Menominee/Chippewa Indian village was established prior to 1840 and still inhabited in the early 1900's; cemetery site at Joe Corn's Landing still contains graves of Jerome Dakota and his daughter.

**BREITUNG:** The village of Breitung was platted September 8, 1920, by Raymond and Esther J. Turner on the SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 1, T39N of R31W.

**BREITUNG MINE:** See **VULCAN**.

**BRYDEN:** Postal name for Ralph; post office established January 17, 1901, with Wallace M. Taylor, postmaster; changed to Ralph June 6, 1904.

**CALUMET MINE:** Located in Section 8, T41N of R28W, mine shipped ore in 1882, 1883 and 1884; reopened in 1905 and active sporadically until 1914.

**CAREY'S SPUR:** Established on the Milwaukee & Northern Railway in the S ½ of Section 16, T42N of R30W by David Carey, a logger who arrived in Sagola in 1890 and shipped his logs to the mill there.

**CHANNING:** Began as a railroad station called Ford Siding in Sagola Township; platted June 26, 1893, by the Milwaukee Land Company on the W ½ of NW ¼ of Section 8, T43N of R30W; named for John Parke Channing, a mining engineer surveying the area; post office established December 7, 1892, with Horace W. Bent, postmaster.

**DICKEY'S/DICKIE'S TRADING POST:** William and James Dickie established a trading post on the Old State Road on the SE ¼ of Section 33, T40N of R30W in about 1871; traded with the Indians and stocked provisions for explorers throughout the 1870's just west of what became Quinnesec.

**EAST BREITUNG:** Platted March 4, 1924, by Julius I. Corn on the SW ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 7, T39N of R30W in Breitung Township.

**EAST KINGSFORD:** Platted February 26, 1925, by Julius I. Corn, Yetta A. Corn and Rose Corn Federgreen on the SW ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 6, T39N of R30W in Breitung Township.

**FELCH:** Settlement established in Felch Township in early 1880's; See **FELCH MOUNTAIN and METROPOLITAN**; name comes from Felch Mountain Range, a belt of iron ore named for Alpheus Felch, governor of Michigan (1845-1847); post

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office established March 13, 1906, with Andrew Rian, postmaster.

**FELCH MOUNTAIN:** Platted June 10, 1881, by Jonathan Hickox, John A. Caughley and John A. Glidden on the SE ¼ of Section 29, T42N of R28W; named for Alpheus Felch, governor of Michigan (1845-1847); *see METROPOLITAN*.

**FERNDALE:** Platted September 7, 1920, by Bartolo and Madalene Carollo on the SW ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 6, T39N of R30W.

**FLOODWOOD:** Established as a lumber settlement in Humboldt Township, Marquette County, in mid-1880's; post office established November 21, 1887, with Thom E. Timlin, postmaster; discontinued March 31, 1905.

**FORD SIDING:** *See CHANNING*.

**FOSTER CITY:** Established by lumberman Alonzo L. Foster in 1884 in Breen Township; post office established February 5, 1886, with Alonzo L. Foster, postmaster.

**FREDERICKTON:** Platted July 9, 1879, by the Lake Superior Ship Canal, Railway and Iron Company on the S ½ of NW ¼ of Section 9, T39N of R29W; probably named for Frederick Ayer, secretary of the company; annexed to City of Norway in 1891.

**GOLDEN:** Station on the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad east of Channing in Sagola Township, probably named for M. Golden, a Menominee logger.

**GRANITE BLUFF:** Established as a sawmill settlement in Breitung Township; post office established February 18, 1890, with Fred H. Strup, postmaster; discontinued September 19, 1895; restored

from December 22, 1895, to June 15, 1900, and from May 7, 1904, to June 29, 1918.

**GROVELAND:** Mining location east of Randville in southwestern corner of Felch Township named for the Groveland Mining Company.

**HAMLIN:** Station on the Wisconsin & Michigan Railroad in southern Waucedah Township before Vista.

**HARDWOOD:** Established in 1884 by the Menominee Hardwood & Shingle Company; post office established July 23, 1891, with James H. Walton, postmaster.

**HENDERSON:** Established in northern Felch Township; believed to have been named for R.C. Henderson, former Dickinson County prosecuting attorney.

**HOLMES SIDING:** *See SAGOLA*.

**HYLAS:** Station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad in Breen Township named for the principal Greek victim of the water nymphs. Hylas was the son of Teodamus, the king of pre-Greek people settled on the island of Euboa. Heracles captured him because of his good looks. Although he became the hero's lover, and voyaged with him on the ship of the Argonauts, Hylas could not resist the endearments of the water nymphs. When sent to fetch water, he was pulled into the pool and, despite the cries of Heracles from the shore, was never seen again.

**INGALSDORF/INGALLSDORF/INGOLSDORF:** Platted as Ingolsdorf June 11, 1879, by the Ingalls Mining Company (Eleazer S. Ingalls, president; Timothy Cole, secretary) on the SE ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 8, T39N of R29W; post office established September 11, 1879, with Charles E. Knowlton, postmaster; changed to Norway December 8, 1879.

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**IRON MOUNTAIN:** Platted October 29, 1879, by Samuel M. Stephenson, Isaac Stephenson and Joseph Fleshiem on the NW ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 31, T40N of R30W; post office established May 17, 1880, with Renel O. Philbrook, postmaster; early references to Iron Mountain include Section 30, Chapin, Chapin Mine and Iron City; incorporated as a village October 10, 1887; incorporated as a city April 2, 1888.

**JOHNSON SPUR:** See *HENDERSON*. Station on the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad located in Felch Township west of Ralph.

**KENTUCKY TOWN:** Settlement of woodsmen established in West Branch Township in the northeastern corner of the county around March, 1911.

**KINGSFORD:** Chartered as a village December 29, 1923; chartered as a city August 5, 1947; named for Edward G. Kingsford, real estate agent and Ford dealer, married to Minnie Flaherty, cousin of Henry Ford I; Ford commissioned Kingsford to find a site upon which to establish an automobile plant in the Upper Peninsula which was located south of Iron Mountain.

**LAKE ANTOINE:** Village of Lake Antoine platted August 23, 1890, by James S. Dickie on the S ½ of SE ¼ of Section 19, T40N of R30W.

**LARCH:** Lumber camp near Alfred in West Branch Township; destroyed by fire May 17, 1914.

**LEHMAN'S:** Located in Felch Township.

**LINDSLEY:** Station on the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railway in southern West Branch Township.

**LORETTO:** Platted December 28, 1892, by William H. and Eleanor E. O'Brien on the westerly part of the NW ¼ of Section 18, T30N of R28W; O'Brien was president of the Appleton Mining Company; post office established November 18, 1895, with Mathew E. Gleason, postmaster; discontinued March 31, 1964.

**McRAE:** Station on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway between Alfred and Lindsley in southern West Branch Township.

**MERRIMAN:** C.E. Ruprecht erected a shingle mill at "Merryman's Siding" which began operation in early November, 1892; station on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway; named for either John Merriman, early railroad station agent in Iron Mountain and Florence, Wisconsin, or Andrew C. Merryman, secretary and general manager of the Hamilton & Merryman Company, a lumbering firm in Marinette, Wisconsin, which logged in the area.

**METROPOLITAN:** Platted as Felch Mountain by the Metropolitan Mining Company in Ely Township, Marquette County; post office established August 31, 1881, with Louis A. Friederichs, postmaster; discontinued December 30, 1963.

**MILLER'S FERRY:** Paul Miller established a "ferry" service on Section 13, T40N of R31W on the Old State Road near Badwater which operated in the late 1870's and probably some years earlier to help people cross the Menominee River at this point.

**MULLEN'S TRADING POST:** Patrick Mullen lived on the land which became the New York Farm at the mouth of the Sturgeon River with his wife, apparently a squaw, and traded with the Indians; mentioned in accounts of the late 1860's;

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Mullen was accidentally killed near Hamilton Lakes in Breen Township May 14, 1878, by a Menominee River Railroad train, and buried in an Indian burial ground on land he owned across the river from the New York Farm.

**NORWAY:** Platted July 31, 1879, by Carl L. Wendel on the N ½ of NW ¼ of Section 8, T39N of R29W; post office transferred from Ingolsdorf December 8, 1879; incorporated as a city April 17, 1891.

**PARMENTER'S MILL:** Edward L. Parmenter operated a sawmill on the Sturgeon River located between Vulcan and Loretto near the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad bridge prior to December, 1892, when he proposed to build houses for his employees the following spring. **See STURGEON MILL.**

**QUINNESEC:** Platted March 8, 1877, by John Lane Buell on the NE ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 3, T39N of R30W; name derived from the Chippewa Be-kwe-ne-sec Se-je-won which means Smoky Falls, referring to the fine spray or mist caused by the falling water dashing against the rocks of the two nearby waterfalls on the Menominee River; post office established September 25, 1877, with Roscoe G. Brown, postmaster.

**RALPH:** Lumbering settlement and station established on the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railroad in 1901; named for Ralph Wells, son of John W. Wells, of Menominee, a lumberman operating in the area; post office originally named Bryden and renamed Ralph June 6, 1904.

**RANDVILLE:** Station on the Milwaukee & Northern Railroad established ca. 1890 near the Groveland Mine; probably named for William H. Rand, president of the Groveland Mining Company; post office established March 28, 1891, with Horace

W. Bent, postmaster; discontinued March 31, 1932.

**RICHARDSBURG:** Settlement at the Indiana Mine named for Captain Guy A. Richards, mine superintendent; post office established May 29, 1917, with Sol Beauparlant, postmaster; closed, but restored August 25, 1925.

**RIVER SIDING:** Spur on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad opened in 1882.

**RUPRECHTS:** Julius Ruprecht, sheriff of Menominee County, established a sawmill west of Waucedah in Breen Township in late October or early November, 1880; moved his mill to Mastodon Junction in Marquette County (now Iron County) in late March or early April, 1883.

**RUSSELL:** Station on the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railway in southern West Branch Township.

**SAGOLA:** Began as a railroad station called Holmes Siding in Felch Township, Marquette County; mill town settlement established on the E ½ of SW ¼ of Section 29, T43N of R30W by the Laing Lumber Company, later the Sagola Lumber Company; named by Patrick Flanagan, probably after Sagole, Wisconsin, where he taught school. "Sagole" was derived from an Indian word used in greeting one another; post office established October 9, 1889, with William S. Laing, postmaster.

**SOUTH NORWAY:** Platted September 5, 1890, by Eugene Krohn on the NE ¼ of SE ¼ of Section 8, T39N of R29W; annexed by City of Norway in 1891.

**SPRUCE:** Station on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad three miles east of Metropolitan.

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**STURGEON CITY:** Platted May 17, 1894, by James H. and Margaret Bush on the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 12, T39N of R29W; never populated.

**STURGEON MILL:** Originally known as Parmenter's Mill, this sawmill settlement probably changed names after mid-November, 1896, when the O'Callaghan Brothers (James, John and George), of Norway, purchased the mill; by early March, 1897, the organization at the Sturgeon River was named the O.C. Lumber Company.

**THEODORE:** Platted May 16, 1881, by the Lake Superior Ship Canal, Railway and Iron Company on the S  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 29, T42N of R28W, in Felch Township, Marquette County; named for Theodore M. Davis, company president.

**TURNER:** Station on the Escanaba and Lake Superior Railway in Felch Township.

**VISTA:** Station on the Wisconsin & Michigan Railroad in southwestern Waucedah Township.

**VULCAN:** Originally called Breitung or Breitung Mine for the mine around which it developed, officials of the Menominee Mining Company selected Vulcan as the name of the mine and the settlement in late July, 1877; post office established October 31, 1877, with Milton C. Belknap, postmaster; named for the Roman god of metal-working who produced thunderbolts for Jupiter on his forge beneath Mount Etna; platted July 25, 1925, by Raymond and Esther J. Turner on the N  $\frac{1}{2}$  of NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 14, and the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 15, T39N of R29W.

**WARD:** Station on the Escanaba & Lake Superior Railway southeast of Ralph in West Branch Township.

**WAUCEDAH:** Platted April 16, 1877, by the Breen Mining Company (Eleazer S. Ingalls, president; Solom P. Saxton, secretary; Bartley Breen, surveyor) on the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 22, T39N of R28W; name from Winnebago Indian word meaning "at the pines" or "place of pines"; post office established June 26, 1877, with David R. Gifford, postmaster; discontinued April 15, 1942.

**WEST BREITUNG:** Village of West Breitung platted November 4, 1920, by the Iron Mountain Real Estate Company (Wilbur W. Thompson, president; Raymond Turner, secretary) on the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2, and the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, T39N of R31W.

**YOUNGS:** Settlement established at Groveland Mine named for George W. Youngs, of Iron River, general manager of the Groveland Mining Company; post office established March 21, 1911; discontinued June 30, 1912.