

PHOTOGRAPHS OF COMMONWEALTH, FLORENCE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

[Compiled and Captioned by William John Cummings – Updated July 2019]



Road to the Commonwealth Mine with Superintendent's House and Office Buildings, Commonwealth, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1890: Taken in about 1890 by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, pioneer Menominee Iron Range photographer, this view shows the road leading to the Commonwealth Mine with the superintendent's house at the left and office buildings to the right. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

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Commonwealth Mine Superintendent's House, Commonwealth, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1890: Taken in about 1890 by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, pioneer Menominee Iron Range photographer, this photograph shows the superintendent's house of the Commonwealth Mine. Superintendent William E. Dickinson lived here with his family between 1881 and 1891. His son, Willie, was kidnapped on November 1, 1881, and never found. Later Otto Conrad Davidson was superintendent of the Commonwealth Mine. He married Superintendent Dickinson's daughter, Charlotte Sophia, and later was superintendent of the Oliver Iron Mining Company, living in what is now the Chippewa Club in Iron Mountain, Michigan. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

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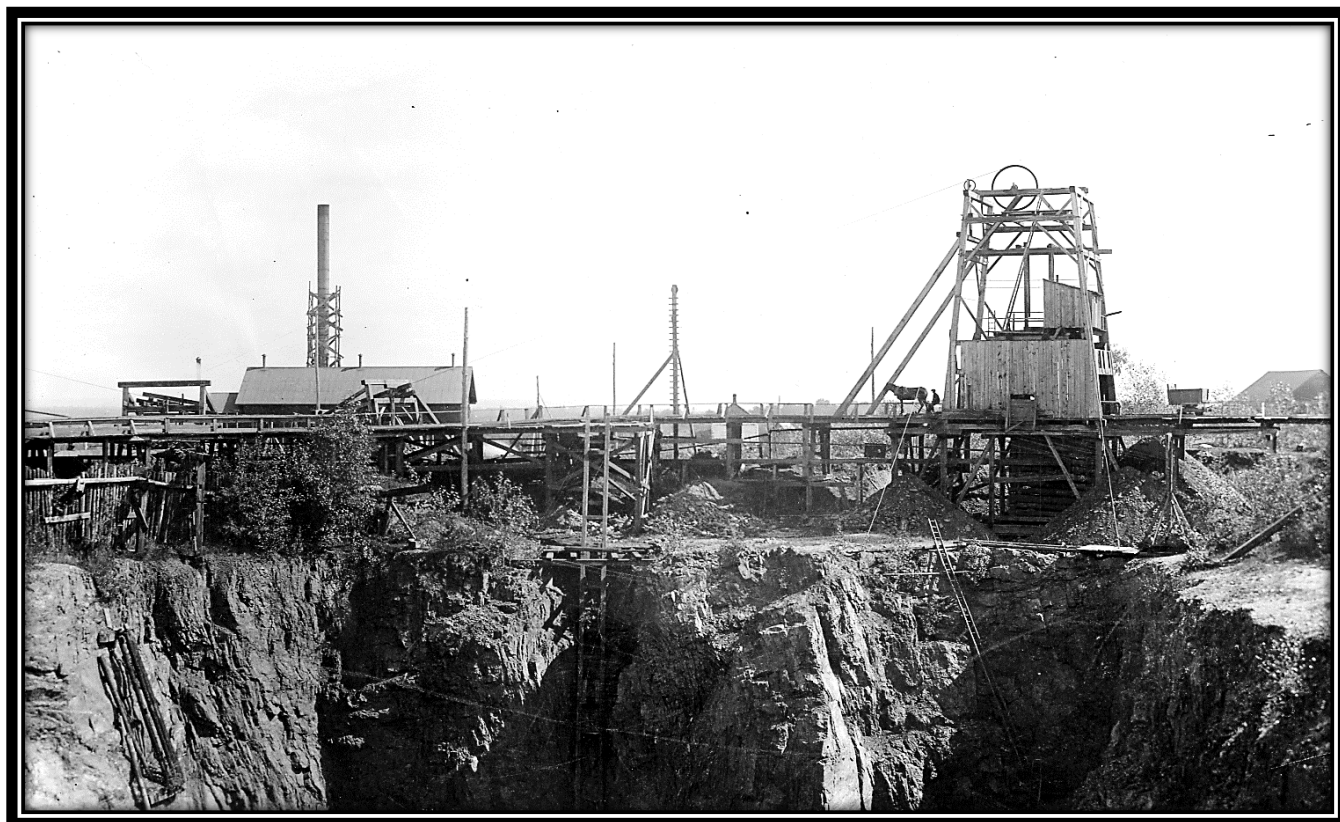
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Commonwealth Mine Office Building, Commonwealth, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1890: Taken in about 1890 by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, pioneer Menominee Iron Range photographer, this photograph shows the office building of the Commonwealth Mine, located near the superintendent's residence. The house at the far left probably was used by another mining official. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]

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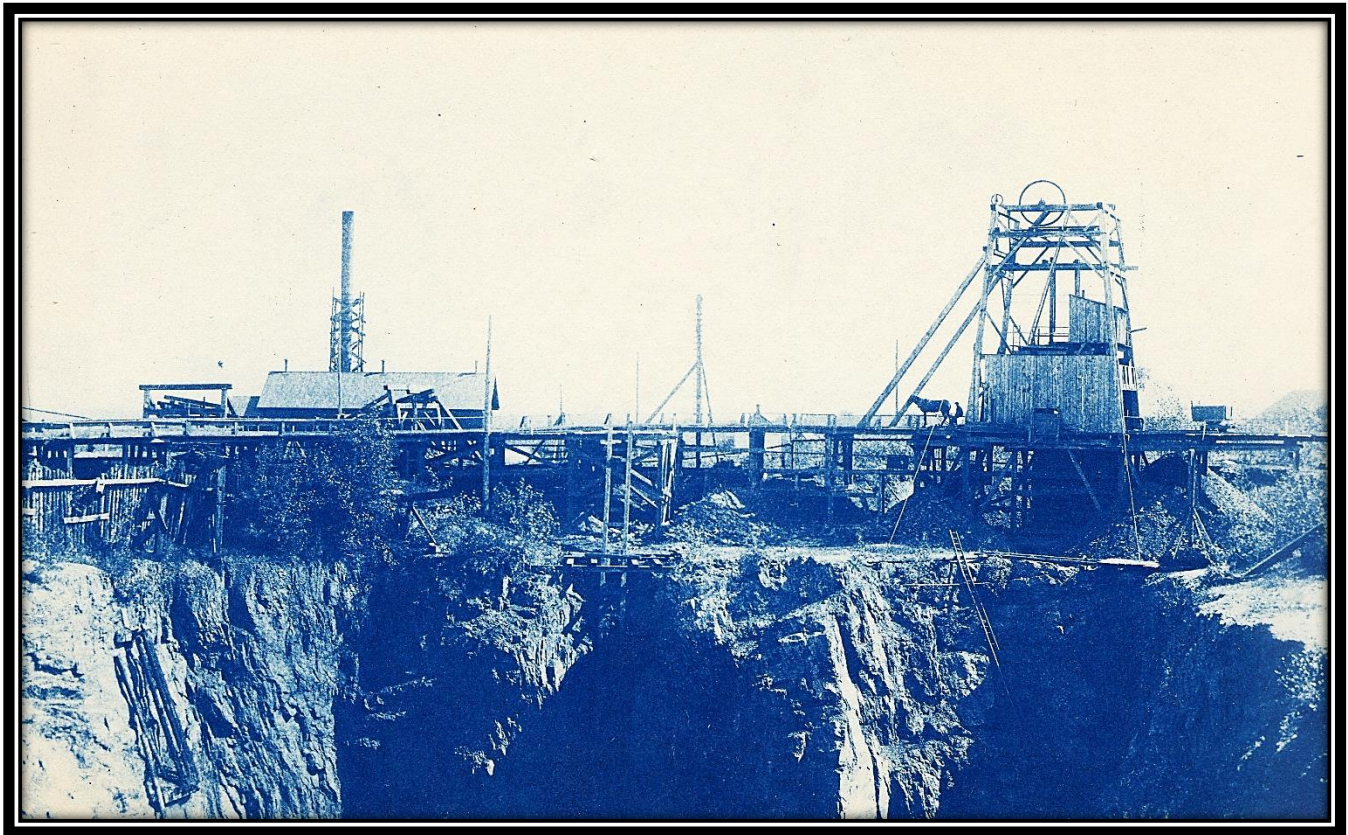
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Commonwealth Mine, Commonwealth, Florence County, Wisconsin, 1890: This photograph of the Commonwealth Mine was taken by Jorgen J. Eskil, pioneer Menominee Range photographer, in about 1890. Note the horse or mule being used for tramping on the trestle to the left of the mine shaft. The Commonwealth Iron Company opened the Commonwealth Mine in 1880 with Oglebay, Norton & Company, serving as sales agent and fee owner. The Commonwealth Mine Group was composed of the following mines before 1952: Commonwealth Mine, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34; Buckeye Mine, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33; Davidson Mine, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34; Badger Mine, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 40 North, Range 18 East. The greatest vertical depth was 825 feet at the Buckeye Mine by 1952. Between 1880 and 1916 a total of 2,920,990 tons of iron ore were shipped and an additional 36,894 tons were shipped by John T. Spencer from an old stockpile on the property between 1937 and 1943. [Menominee Range Historical Museum]

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Commonwealth Mine, Commonwealth, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1890: Taken in 1890 by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, an early photographer on the Menominee Iron Range with a studio in Florence, in 1890, this view probably shows the Commonwealth Mine. Note the open pit and the horse pulling an ore car out of the shaft at the right. The blue color denotes this photograph is a cyanotype. Cyanotype is a photographic printing process that produces a cyan-blue print. Engineers used the process well into the 20th century as a simple and low-cost process to produce copies of drawings, referred to as blueprints. The process uses two chemicals: ammonium iron(III) citrate and potassium ferricyanide. Eskil experimented with cyanotypes occasionally. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

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Badger Mine (or possibly the Florence Mine), Commonwealth, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1890: Taken in about 1890 by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, an early photographer on the Menominee Iron Range with a studio in Florence, this view shows the Badger Mine. Another identical photograph is identified as the Florence Mine. Note the open pit and the huge bucket suspended from one of the timbers at the right. *[Menominee Range Historical Museum]*

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Commonwealth School, Commonwealth, Florence County, Wisconsin, ca. 1890: Taken in 1890 by Jorgen Johansen Eskil, pioneer Menominee Iron Range photographer with a studio in Florence, this view shows the Commonwealth School. [*Menominee Range Historical Museum*]