Diamond Drill

Out of the Past

September 24, 1898

Mr. J.A. Downer, a Milwaukee real estate man, is in the process of developing a plan to develop and colonize the Crystal Falls Hoop Company property. It will be the first attempt in this part of the country. Mr. Downer has successfully placed settlers in Minnesota and Dakota. Settlers from Milwaukee, representing a total eleven families, toured the lands between Crystal Falls and Amasa with hopes of about 5,000 acres being colonized in the future.

The evidence in a recent trial given by the witness had been very strongly against the lawyer's side in the case. The lawyer tried his best to break the testimony or throw discredit on the witness. He had tried browbeating and many other unsavory tactics but the witness stuck to his story. As a last resort the lawyer stated that the man had been in prison for eighteen months and his testimony should be dismissed. With a great deal of self-control the witness stated that he had been confined and survived as a prisoner of war in the Civil War Confederate prison in Andersonville, Georgia.