



Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota, Vol. 2 of 3: Their Story and People; An Authentic Narrative of the Past, With Particular Attention to the ... and Social Development (Classic Reprint)

Walter van Brunt

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Excerpt from Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota, Vol. 2 of 3: Their Story and People; An Authentic Narrative of the Past, With Particular Attention to the Modern Era in the Commercial, Industrial, Educational, Civic and Social Development

The city of Eveleth, one of the leading and most active incorporated places of the ranges, had its beginning in mining explorations. Therefore, properly, a historical review of its development should begin with data regarding its mining. And no more authoritative information could be obtained than from the man who, above all others, was chiefly responsible for the founding of the village of Eveleth.

David T. Adams, a mining explorer of Duluth, whose first trip over the Mesabi range was in 1883, when he "was attracted to the possibility of the existence of commercial bodies of hematite ore on the southern slope, or in the lowlands of the Mesaba," was one of the most successful of the early explorers of the Mesabi range. He was the first to discover marketable ore, finding it on the Cincinnati in 1891, Captain Kehoe almost simultaneously finding blue ore on the Biwabik workings. In the next year Adams, acting for A. E. Humphreys, George G. Atkins, and others, "had seventeen camps in operation in township 58-17," mainly in the Virginia district. In a narrative written specially for the current historical work Mr. Adams makes the following statements regarding his early operations in the Eveleth district:

"In, or about, the month of July, 1892, I discovered coloring on the south line of section 30, 58-17, by means of a spring pole drill, operated by Hugh McMahon and Noble Beatty - the first operation of the kind undertaken on the range.

"In the month of September of that year an option was acquired by the late Peter L. Kimberly from the late Simon J. Murphy, George O. Robinson, E. M. Fowler and others, on three quarter-sections, which I had previously selected, in sections 31 and 32 of 58-17, and were designated as selections Nos. 1, 2 and 3, and the explorations on these selections were known as Adams Nos. 1, 2 and 3. A little later, George L. Cheeseborough secured an option from these same parties, on the sw. qr. of section 31, which I had previously selected and which was selection No. 4, known as the Cheeseborough explorations.

"On or about the first of October, 1892, I started explorations in the northern part of section 31 on the Adams No. 1, and the first ore discovered in what is now known as the Eveleth Group of Mines, or anywhere on the southern slope of the hills running down from Virginia, was discovered there in my first pit. (On this, as on all former and later explorations I always located my own pits.) Thomas Short was in charge of the men, and under him work proceeded rapidly. It was not long before a very large body of what is now the standard ore of the range was discovered.

"Shortly thereafter, I discovered ore in the Cheeseborough.

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