

Explosion kills Griffith & Smith, Delano 1915
Arenac County Independent
23 September 1915
Contributed by Penny Bliss

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23 September 1915

**Explosion Kills Two Men:
Two Delano Farmers, Robert Smith and Emmett Griffith, Have Fatal
Accident with dynamite**

As a result of a premature explosion of 20 sticks of dynamite, the lives of two well known Delano farmers were snuffed out last Thursday.

Emmett Griffith and Robert Smith were blowing up stumps and had set down on a log to rest a moment. Near them was a pail containing 20 sticks of dynamite, a quantity of dynamite caps and fuse.

They both were smoking and the supposition is that a spark from one of [their] pipes fell into the pail and caused the explosion which occurred a few minutes after they had seated themselves. Griffith had both legs off near the thigh and otherwise mangled.

He lived for only two or three hours after the accident. Smith had one leg and one arm blown off and suffered other severe injuries. He died about 5 o'clock that afternoon. both men regained consciousness before they died and told the same story as to how the accident occurred.

The funerals were held Saturday and Sunday. Griffith was 26 years old and leaves a widow and one child. Smith was 19 years old and single. The sympathy of the entire [community] is extended to the bereaved relatives.