

**Keweenaw National Historical Park**

**National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior**



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## **FINDING AID**

# **Keweenaw Printing Company records 1906-1969 (bulk dates: 1908-1955)**

Prepared by  
Lee Steiner  
June, 2008

Catalog Number: KEWE 2705

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## HISTORY

The Keweenaw Printing Company appears to have been established in 1906 in Mohawk, Michigan. The company was incorporated in 1907. On October 14, 1908, the first stockholders association meeting was held in the company's office in Mohawk, and the primary stockholder, John P. Petermann, was elected president. Subsequent meetings were held at his home in Laurium. Other prominent local citizens who served on the board of directors included Albert E. Petermann, Johnson P. Chappel, Edwin Smetheram, and Fred J. Martin.

A July 4, 1909 photograph shows that the company had an office or salesroom in a building on Oak Street in Calumet at that time. At the February 20, 1914 meeting of the board of directors, it was decided that the Mohawk printing plant and the Calumet salesroom, which was by then on Portland Street, should both move to a single location. John Petermann was authorized to sign a five year lease for the first floor and basement of the Union Building on the corner of Fifth Street and Red Jacket Road, in Calumet. They rented the space for \$140.00 a month from the Union Building Association which was primarily comprised of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Hecla Lodge, No. 90 and the Free & Accepted Masons Calumet Lodge, No. 271.

In times of financial difficulty, additional stocks were sold; most appear to have been acquired by relatives of John P. Petermann and Fred J. Martin. On August 31, 1937, the board of directors decided to renew their corporate charter which had expired on January 4, 1937, for a second thirty year term, in spite of the financial ups and downs experienced by the company during the previous thirty years.

In June 1957, Myrno E. Petermann, who had a 64% interest in the company, and Ethel H. Martin, who had a 36% interest in the company, agreed to sell the company to L. Gordon Cowan for the sum of \$4,500.00.

It appears that around 1970, Gordon Cowan sold the company to Roger Little, who moved the Keweenaw Printing Company to the first floor of the First National Bank building in Laurium. By the mid 1970s, the Keweenaw Printing Company was unable to stay in business and was forced to discontinue operations.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Keweenaw Printing Company records  
1906-1969 (bulk dates: 1908-1955)

CATALOG NUMBER	KEWE 2705
VOLUME	[Count] 1800 [Extent] [Type of Unit]EA.
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Keweenaw Printing Company records are comprised of financial ledgers, invoices, purchase orders, tax records, and various other materials pertaining to the administrative and commercial aspects of the company, which was part of the Copper Country community for about seventy.</p> <p>The strengths of the collection include the invoice and purchase order records and financial ledgers dating from 1906 to 1964. The employee records and pay roll ledgers would be of interest to genealogists for the lists of those employed by the Keweenaw Printing Company. Researchers could use the sales and purchase order records to trace the rise and decline of the Keweenaw Printing Company as well as provide insight into other aspects of the social history of the community through the materials printed by the company such as playbills, concert posters, and local fraternal lodge materials. Also of note in the collection is the meeting minutes ledger from the Stockholder's Association dating from 1908 to 1958.</p>
ORGANIZATION	<p>[Organization]The Keweenaw Printing Company records are divided into five series with headings such as administrative, corporate, financial, publications, and photographs, in that order. The administrative series is divided into two subseries and the financial series is broken down into five subseries categories. The subseries of ledgers, under the financial series, is further broken down into five sub-subseries.</p> <p>[Arrangement]Materials within each series and subseries are generally arranged in chronological order; undated materials are placed in alphabetical order by topic.</p>

## PROVENANCE

The Keweenaw Printing Company records are comprised of materials from four accessions. The primary accession is accession number KEWE-00008, containing material left in the First National Bank in Laurium when the Keweenaw Printing Company went out of business. When Gary Viegelahan, the building owner, passed away in 1993, his brother-in-law, Melvin Jones, took possession of the property and sold the Keweenaw Printing Company material to Dr. Mark Cowan, the grandson of L. Gordon Cowan, who subsequently donated it to Keweenaw National Historical Park on May 4, 2000.

Materials from accession number KEWE-00051 were salvaged from the Union Building by former owner Ray Ostermyer. The materials were purchased by Keweenaw National Historical Park from Mr. Ostermyer on August 20, 2002.

The records in accession number KEWE-00181 were rescued from the Eagle Harbor Waste Management incinerator by Michael Braman, an employee at the incinerator who recognized the historical significance of the material. Mr. Braman donated the materials to Keweenaw National Historical Park on April 4, 2004. These materials are believed to have been owned by Ray Ostermyer, who moved to Keweenaw County before his death on May 5, 2003. These records complement records from accession number KEWE-00051.

Items in accession number KEWE-00043 were donated by Melvin Jones to Keweenaw National Historical Park on February 18, 2002.

## RESTRICTIONS

NO

## ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

Myrno E. Petermann papers; Cat. # KEWE 3002, Coll. # 00007 KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
William John (Jack) Foster (1907-2003), collection and personal papers; Cat. # KEWE 00005, Coll. # 00002 KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
Raymond Pomroy, Jr. Copper Country Catholic Churches collection; Cat. # KEWE 47247 KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK  
Andrew C. Curto collection; Cat. # 47266 KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

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## **HIERARCHY**

### **I. SERIES 001: ADMINISTRATIVE, 1907-1955**

A. SUBSERIES 001.01: CONTRACTS & CORRESPONDENCE, 1907-1955

B. SUBSERIES 001.02: INSURANCE, 1920-1941

### **II. SERIES 002: CORPORATE, 1908-1958**

### **III. SERIES 003: FINANCIAL, 1906-1964**

A. SUBSERIES 003.01: ACCOUNTING RECORDS, 1906-1917, 1957-1958

B. SUBSERIES 003.02: TAXES, 1936-1957

C. SUBSERIES 003.03: INVOICES, 1951-1958

D. SUBSERIES 003.04: PURCHASE ORDERS, 1952-1956, 1964

E. SUBSERIES 003.05: LEDGERS, 1906-1964

1. SUB-SUBSERIES 003.05.01: Pay Roll & Cash Journals, 1906-1933

2. SUB-SUBSERIES 003.05.02: Job Orders & Sales Ledgers, 1907-1919

3. SUB-SUBSERIES 003.05.03: Account Ledgers, 1906-1964

4. SUB-SUBSERIES 003.05.04: Keweenaw Miner Newspaper Ledgers, 1907-1914

5. SUB-SUBSERIES 003.05.05: Miscellaneous, 1908-ca.1950

### **IV. SERIES 004: PUBLICATIONS, 1925-1933, 1958-1969**

### **V. SERIES 005: PHOTOGRAPHS, unknown dates**

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## CONTAINER LIST

### Box 1

#### SERIES 001: ADMINISTRATIVE

##### Subseries 001.01: Contracts & Correspondence

Folder 1. 00003/001.01-001 Lanston Monotype Machine Company (14)

Folder 2. 00003/001.01-002 Correspondence Received (16)

Folder 3. 00003/001.01-003 Mergenthaler Linotype Co. Contracts (9)

Folder 4. 00003/001.01-004 Miscellaneous Contracts (5)

Folder 5. 00003/001.01-005 Houghton Typographical Union, No. 596  
Contracts (4)

##### Subseries 001.02: Insurance

Folder 6. 00003/001.02-001 Policies (9)

Folder 7. 00003/001.02-002 Michigan Unemployment Compensation  
Commission Report (11)

Folder 8. 00003/001.02-003 Monthly Statements, 1 of 2 (33)

Folder 9. 00003/001.02-003 Monthly Statements, 2 of 2 (38)

#### SERIES 002: CORPORATE

Folder 10. 00003/002-001 Shareholders Meeting Minutes (60)

Folder 11. 00003/002-002 Dept. of Commerce Census of Manufactures (1)

Folder 12. 00003/002-003 Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission  
Annual Report (14)

#### SERIES 003: FINANCIAL

##### Subseries 003.01: Accounting Records

Folder 13. 00003/003.01-001 Bank Books (2)

**Box 1 (cont'd)**

Folder 14. 00003/003.01-002 Cancelled Bank Notes (28)

Folder 15. 00003/003.01-003 The Keweenaw Miner Statements (4)

Folder 16. 00003/003.01-004 Monthly Account Reports, 1 of 3 (10)

Folder 17. 00003/003.01-004 Monthly Account Reports, 2 of 3 (13)

Folder 18. 00003/003.01-004 Monthly Account Reports, 3 of 3 (23)

Folder 19. 00003/003.01-005 Monthly Account Statements (2)

Folder 20. 00003/003.01-006 Bills (1)

Folder 21. 00003/003.01-007 Employee Time Cards (516)

**Subseries 003.02: Taxes**

Folder 22. 00003/003.02-001 Capital Stock Tax (5)

Folder 23. 00003/003.02-002 Social Security Tax Payment Receipts (16)

Folder 24. 00003/003.02-003 Houghton County Treasurers Tax Receipts (19)

Folder 25. 00003/003.02-004 Calumet Township Treasurers Tax Receipts (12)

Folder 26. 00003/003.02-005 Employer's Social Security Tax Returns (47)

Folder 27. 00003/003.02-006 U.S. Corporation Income & Declared Value Excess-Profits Tax Returns (3)

Folder 28. 00003/003.02-007 Income Tax Withheld Stubs (39)

Folder 29. 00003/003.02-008 Blank Forms, U.S. Treasury Department Bulletins (10)

Folder 30. 00003/003.02-009 Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Returns (32)

**Box 1 (cont'd)****Subseries 003.03: Invoices**

- Folder 31. 00003/003.03-001 R.D. Handy, Inc. (2)
- Folder 32. 00003/003.03-002 Duluth Photo Engraving Co., 1 of 3 (62)
- Folder 33. 00003/003.03-002 Duluth Photo Engraving Co., 2 of 3 (75)
- Folder 34. 00003/003.03-002 Duluth Photo Engraving Co., 3 of 3 (43)
- Folder 35. 00003/003.03-003 Meyer & Wenthe, Inc., 1 of 3 (45)
- Folder 36. 00003/003.03-003 Meyer & Wenthe, Inc., 2 of 3 (65)
- Folder 37. 00003/003.03.003 Meyer & Wenthe, Inc., 3 of 3 (88)

**Box 2****Subseries 003.04: Purchase Orders**

- Folder 1. 00003/003.04-001 Houghton County Purchasing Agent's Office (3)
- Folder 2. 00003/003.04-002 Calumet High School (3)
- Folder 3. 00003/003.04-003 Public School of Calumet (6)
- Folder 4. 00003/003.04-004 Upper Peninsula Power Company (9)
- Folder 5. 00003/003.04-005 Calumet & Hecla, Inc. – Calumet Division, 1 of 5 (15)
- Folder 6. 00003/003.04-005 Calumet & Hecla, Inc. – Calumet Division, 2 of 5 (59)
- Folder 7. 00003/003.04-005 Calumet & Hecla, Inc. – Calumet Division, 3 of 5 (52)
- Folder 8. 00003/003.04-005 Calumet & Hecla, Inc. – Calumet Division, 4 of 5 (57)
- Folder 9. 00003/003.04-005 Calumet & Hecla, Inc. – Calumet Division, 5 of 5 (58)

**Box 2 (cont'd)**

Folder 10. 00003/003.04-006 Copper Range Railroad Company (1)

Folder 11. 00003/003.04-007 Detroit & Northern Savings & Loan Association (1)

Folder 12. 00003/003.04-008 Upper Peninsula Generating Company (1)

Folder 13. 00003/003.04-009 Department of Commerce – Civil Aeronautics Administration (1)

Folder 14. 00003/003.04-010 Miscellaneous Job Orders (8)

**Subseries 003.05: Ledgers [shelved separately]****Sub-Subseries 003.05.01: Pay Roll & Cash Journals**

Ledger 1. 00003/003.05.01#001 “Account Ledger” 1906-1907

Ledger 2. 00003/003.05.01#002 “CASH JOURNAL/No. 1/ K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and Receivable Record” 1908-1909

Ledger 3. 00003/003.05.01#003 “CASH JOURNAL/No. 2/ K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and Receivable Record” 1909

Ledger 4. 00003/003.05.01#004 “CASH JOURNAL/No. 3/ K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and Receivable Record” 1909-1910

Ledger 5. 00003/003.05.01#005 “CASH JOURNAL/No. 5/ K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and Receivable Record” 1910-1911

Ledger 6. 00003/003.05.01#006 “CASH JOURNAL/K.P.Co./ Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and Receivable Record” 1913-1915

Ledger 7. 00003/003.05.01#007 “CASH JOURNAL/No. 6/ K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and Receivable Record” 1915-1916

**Box 2 (cont'd)**

Ledger 8. 00003/003.05.01#008 "CASH JOURNAL/No. 8/  
K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and  
Receivable Record" 1918-1919

Ledger 9. 00003/003.05.01#009 "CASH JOURNAL/No. 9/  
K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and  
Receivable Record" 1919-1921

Ledger 10. 00003/003.05.01#010 "CASH JOURNAL/No. 12/  
K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and  
Receivable Record" 1926-1927

Ledger 11. 00003/003.05.01#011 "CASH JOURNAL/No. 13/  
K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and  
Receivable Record" 1928-1929

Ledger 12. 00003/003.05.01#012 "CASH JOURNAL/No. 14/  
K.P.Co./Combined Journal, Cash, Accounts Payable and  
Receivable Record" 1929-1932

Ledger 13. 00003/003.05.01#013 "Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Pay Roll" 1911-1914

Ledger 14. 00003/003.05.01#014 "Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Pay Roll" 1914-1917

Ledger 15. 00003/003.05.01#015 "Pay Roll/#4/K.P.Co." 1917-  
1924

Ledger 16. 00003/003.05.01#016 "Pay Roll/#5/K.P.Co." 1924-  
1933

**Sub-Subseries 003.05.02: Job Orders & Sales Ledgers**

Ledger 17. 00003/003.05.02#001 "Orders Record Book" 1907

Ledger 18. 00003/003.05.02#002 "Job Work/Record/#1/  
Keweenaw/PTG Co." 1907-1908

Ledger 19. 00003/003.05.02#003 "Job Work/Record/#2/  
Keweenaw/PTG Co." 1907-1908

Ledger 20. 00003/003.05.02#004 "Job Work/Record/#3/  
Keweenaw/PTG Co." [blank] ca.1900

**Box 2 (cont'd)**

Ledger 21. 00003/003.05.02#005 "Printing Job Orders Register"  
1907-1908

Ledger 22. 00003/003.05.02#006 "Printing Job Orders Register"  
1914

Ledger 23. 00003/003.05.02#007 "Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Daily Sales Report" 1910-1911

Ledger 24. 00003/003.05.02#008 "Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Daily Sales Report" 1911

Ledger 25. 00003/003.05.02#009 "Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Daily Sales Report" 1912\_-1913

Ledger 26. 00003/003.05.02#010 "Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Daily Sales Report" 1913-1914

Ledger 27. 00003/003.05.02#011 "Store Department Record of  
Cash Sales/and Charge Sales for Year/1914-1915"

Ledger 28. 00003/003.05.02#012 "Store Department Record of  
Cash Sales/and Charge Sales for Year/1916"

Ledger 29. 00003/003.05.02#013 "Store Department Record of  
Cash Sales/and Charge Sales for Year/1917"

Ledger 30. 00003/003.05.02#014 "Store Department Record of  
Cash Sales/and Charge Sales for Year/1918-1919"

**Sub-Subseries 003.05.03: Account Ledgers**

Ledger 31. 00003/003.05.03#001 "Keweenaw Printing Co.  
Receipts Ledger" 1906-1908

Ledger 32. 00003/003.05.03#002 "Account Journal" 1906-1908

Ledger 33. 00003/003.05.03#003 "Account Ledger" 1907

Ledger 34. 00003/003.05.03#004 "Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Monthly Balance Sheet of Cost Ledger" 1909-1916

Ledger 35. 00003/003.05.03#005 Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Mohawk, Michigan/General Ledger" 1944-1958

**Box 2 (cont'd)**

Ledger 36. 00003/003.05.03#006 Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Mohawk, Michigan/Accounts Ledger” 1959

Ledger 37. 00003/003.05.03#007 Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Calumet, Michigan/ Sheet Ledger” 1958-1962

Ledger 38. 00003/003.05.03#008 Keweenaw Printing Company/  
Mohawk, Michigan/Cost Sheet Ledger” 1963-1964

Ledger 39. 00003/003.05.03#009 “Keweenaw Printing Company,  
Calumet, Mich.” Account Ledger [blank]

**Sub-Subseries 003.05.04: Keweenaw Miner Newspaper Ledgers**

Ledger 40. 00003/003.05.04#001 “Keweenaw Miner/Advertising  
Ledger” 1907

Ledger 41. 00003/003.05.04#002 “Advertising/Ledger/#2/  
Keweenaw/PTG Co.” 1910

Ledger 42. 00003/003.05.04#003 “Subscription/Record/  
Keweenaw/PTG. Co.” 1908-1910

Ledger 43. 00003/003.05.04#004 “Subscription/Record/#2/  
Keweenaw/PTG. Co.” 1909-1914

Ledger 44. 00003/003.05.04#005 “Index/Keweenaw/Printing/Co.”  
Subscription Index, ca. 1910

**Sub-Subseries 003.05.05: Miscellaneous**

Ledger 45. 00003/003.05.05#001 “Defiance Machine Company  
Catalogue” 1908-1910

Ledger 46. 00003/003.05.05#002 “Keweenaw Printing Co./  
Business Machines/Stock Ledger” 1916-1917

Ledger 47. 00003/003.05.05#003 “Order Book”

Ledger 48. 00003/003.05.05#004 “Engraved Stationary/Social and  
Commercial/Sample Book” ca. 1931

Ledger 49. 00003/003.05.05#005 “Superior Pharmacy/Merchants  
& Miners Bank of Calumet” 1932-1937

**Box 2 (cont'd)**

Ledger 50. 00003/003.05.05#006 "National/Time Book" [blank]

Ledger 51. 00003/003.05.05#007 "Farm Record/Simplex/Book Keeping – Income Tax Record" [blank] ca. 1950

**SERIES 004: PUBLICATIONS**

Folder 15. 00003/004-001 Houghton County Circuit Court – Collins vs. Collins case (55)

Folder 16. 00003/004-002 Keweenaw Masonic Lodge, No. 242 Roster (1)

Folder 17. 00003/004-003 Detroit & Northern Michigan Building & Loan Association of Hancock, Michigan Brochure (1)

Folder 18. 00003/004-004 Plat Map, Keweenaw Miner Supplement (2)

Folder 19. 00003/004-005 Dennison's Catalogue (6)

Folder 20. 00003/004-006 Travel Guide (1)

Folder 21. 00003/004-007 The Daily Mining Gazette (1)

Folder 22. 00003/004-008 Calumet Women's Club Announcement (1)

Folder 23. 00003/004-009 Village of Laurium's 80th Anniversary (1)

Folder 24. 00003/004-010 Bar Drinks Menu (1)

Folder 25. 00003/004-011 Calumet Theatre Playbill (1)

Folder 26. 00003/004-012 Copper Country Chorale Event Signs (2)

Folder 27. 00003/004-013 Descriptive Alphabetical Index (1)

Folder 28. 00003/004-014 Slade, Hipp and Meloy Catalogue (1)

**SERIES 005: PHOTOGRAPHS [shelved separately]**

Photo 1. 00003/005#001 Unidentified Male

Photo 2. 00003/005#002 Unidentified Male

Photo 3. 00003/005#003 Unidentified Female

**Box 2 (cont'd)**

- Photo 4. 00003/005#004 Unidentified Female
- Photo 5. 00003/005#005 Unidentified Male
- Photo 6. 00003/005#006 Unidentified Building
- Photo 7. 00003/005#007 Agnes Koivunen
- Photo 8. 00003/005#008 Helen Savola
- Photo 9\_. 00003/005#009 Unidentified Female
- Photo 10. 00003/005#010 VFW – Unidentified Female
- Photo 11. 00003/005#011 VFW – Roy H.
- Photo 12. 00003/005#012 Unidentified Male
- Photo 13. 00003/005#013 Unidentified Building
- Photo 14. 00003/005#014 Unidentified Buildings
- Photo 15. 00003/005#015 Unidentified Laurium School children
- Photo 16. 00003/005#016 Unidentified Group
- Photo 17. 00003/005#017 Unidentified Building
- Photo 18. 00003/005#018 Unidentified Male
- Photo 19. 00003/005#019 VFW – Eric Halvorsen
- Photo 20. 00003/005#020 Unidentified child
- Photo 21. 00003/005#021 Unidentified Building
- Photo 22. 00003/005#022 Unidentified Building
- Photo 23. 00003/005#023 Unidentified Group
- Photo 24. 00003/005#024 Unidentified Group