



Putting History on Display – Call for Artifacts for Union Building Exhibit



Risk and Resilience: Life in a Copper Mining Community

The concentration of labor, technology, and capital required to extract the Keweenaw's world-class copper resource left an enduring legacy on the land, communities, economy, and people of the region. Keweenaw National Historical Park provides tangible evidence of this legacy. A new interpretive exhibit titled, "Risk and Resilience: Life in a Copper Mining Community", will be located in the park-owned Union Building. To illustrate that story, the exhibit will use graphics panels, audio-visual aids, and most importantly, artifacts. The National Park Service needs help in finding these artifacts and is asking the public to become involved. Below is a list of needed artifacts. If you have an item listed, please consider contacting the park at 906-337-3168.

The Land

The Community

The Economy

Remembering Italian Hall

Artifacts needed:

- Fruit picking basket, early 1900s
- Fishing creel, early 1900s
- Woven picnic basket, early 1900s
- Finnish winter leather boots, early 1900s
- Men's or women's bathing suit, c. 1900
- Street light from Calumet/Red Jacket, c. 1910
- Exterior business sign from Calumet/Red Jacket, c. 1910
- Cash register from Calumet/Red Jacket store, c. 1910
- Miner's clothing, c. 1900 – 1920

- Mine captain's clothing, c. 1900 – 1920
- Hat rack, early 1900s
- Photographs of Italian Hall with mourning bunting
- "Save Italian Hall" button, c. 1984
- Other artifacts associated with Italian Hall building

Mining the Keweenaw

Copper Curio Case

Artifacts needed:

- Trunk used by immigrant families c. 1870 – 1910
- American Indian artifact made from local copper
- Civil War-era brass buttons, copper canteens, copper kettles, pans
- Daguerreotypes (made from copper)
- Lake Superior copper-related artifacts or documents from 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia

- Lake Superior copper-related artifacts or documents from 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago
- 1860s copper penny
- Lake Copper ingots, Civil War-era shipwreck)

Risk and Resilience

Immigrants and New Arrivals

Strike and Strife

Artifacts needed:

- Leyner water drill, c. 1912, made by Ingersoll-Rand
- Trunk used by immigrant family c. 1870 – 1910
- Items (or accounts of items) brought to US from the old country
- Poster or other item illustrating recruitment of copper miners in European countries by Lake Superior copper mines
- Train ticket, steamship ticket, or ship's manifest documenting an immigrant

- ancestor's journey
- Flag or placard used in 1913 strike parade
- Western Federation of Miners membership card
- Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers membership card
- United Steel Workers membership card
- Deputy badge, hat, pistol etc. From the 1913-1914 strike
- Photographs of copper miners on strike in 1968

<p>Education & Americanization</p> <p>From Cradle to Grave</p> <p>Keeping the Faith</p>	<p>Artifacts needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop projects made by students in C&H Manual School • Text books (geography, civics, social studies) used in C&H schools in early 1900s • Calumet High School letter patch • Student essay or drawing related to themes of citizenship, living in Calumet, immigrating, etc., 1900s - 1920s • C&H employee badge • Books from C&H library, early 1900s • Family bibles in foreign languages 	<p>(Italian, German, Slovenian, Finnish), early 1900s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items associated with practicing the Jewish faith (Mezuzah, menorah, etc.) • Catholic sick call set • Photographs of bar mitzvahs, first communions, baptisms from the early 1900s • Items associated with practicing Buddhist or Islamic faiths
<p>Leisure & Recreation</p> <p>Ethnic Identities</p> <p>Main Street</p> <p>Home/Food ways</p>	<p>Artifacts needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copper lined trunk • Prohibition-era items • Personal stories about making, selling, or drinking moonshine • Photographs of bocce ball tournaments, ethnic picnics, parades, etc. • Wooden tokens from 1966 Centennial celebration • Store and business signs – Calumet/Red Jacket from early 1900's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family recipes • Local cookbooks (e.g. 1920's Calumet Women's Club cookbook) • Potato picking tool and other hand-held farming tools • Photos of people in boarding houses • Artifacts related to taking in boarders and from boarding houses • Photographs of backyard gardens • Home movies showing home interiors, backyards, picnics, holidays, community events, outings, etc.
<p>Resource & Recreation</p> <p>Healthcare</p> <p>Kinship and Community</p>	<p>Artifacts needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old photographs of family outings, picnics, snowshoe treks, skiing, skating, fishing, berry picking, etc. • Early sports equipment like ice skates, snowshoes, hockey sticks, cricket bats, bocce balls. • C&H Band memorabilia or musical instruments • Finnish cupping instruments • Stories about home remedies • Crutches used by injured miner • Broom made by blind miners in C&H 	<p>broom factory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from C&H regarding personal injury, disability case, or settlement • Patient registry from C&H or other area hospital • Artifacts from local physician's or lawyers office • China used by Masons or Odd Fellows in Union Building lodges • Photographs of community events on 3rd floor of Union Building • Local temperance group memorabilia • Documents (program, photos) relating to 50th Anniversary banquet for Masor • Photos and documents related to local area women's auxiliary clubs