



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:

- Fishing creel, early 1900s
- Finnish winter leather boots, early 1900s
- 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, e.g.: brick, building fragment, etc.

Mining the Keweenaw

Copper Curio Case

Artifacts needed:

- 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
- C&H ingot, pre-WWII
- Gold and/or silver C&H service medals
- Calumet Conglomerate mass

Risk and Resilience

Immigrants and New Arrivals

Strike and Strife

Artifacts needed:

- Leyner water drill, c. 1912, made by Ingersoll-Rand
- 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, etc. from the 1913-1914 strike
- National Guardsman's uniform, campaign hat, etc., from 1913-1914 strike
- Photographs of copper miners on strike in 1968

Education & Americanization**From Cradle to Grave****Keeping the Faith****Artifacts needed:**

- Shop projects made by students in C&H Manual School, early 1900s
- Student essay or drawing related to themes of citizenship, living in Calumet, immigrating, etc., 1900s - 1920s
- Family bibles in foreign languages (Italian, German, Slovenian, Finnish, etc.), early 1900s
- Items associated with practicing the Jewish faith (Mezuzah, menorah, etc.)

- Photographs of bar mitzvahs, first communions, baptisms from the early 1900s
- Items associated with practicing Buddhist or Islamic faiths

Leisure & Recreation**Ethnic Identities****Main Street****Home/Food ways****Artifacts needed:**

- Copper lined trunk
- Prohibition-era items
- Personal stories about making, selling, or drinking moonshine
- Photographs of bocce ball tournaments, ethnic picnics, parades, etc.
- Coupons from 1916 and C&H celebrations
- Store and business signs – Calumet/Red Jacket from early 1900's
- Family recipes

- Local cookbooks (e.g. 1920's Calumet Women's Club cookbook)
- 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.

Resource & Recreation**Healthcare****Kinship and Community****Artifacts needed:**

- Old photographs of family outings, picnics, snowshoe treks, skiing, skating, fishing, berry picking, etc.
- Early sports equipment like ~~skis, ice skates,~~ snowshoes, hockey sticks, cricket bats, bocce balls.
- C&H Band uniforms, memorabilia or musical instruments
- Finnish cupping instruments
- Stories about home remedies
- Crutches used by injured miner
- Broom made by blind miners in C&H broom factory

- Letter from C&H regarding personal injury, disability case, or settlement
- Patient registry from C&H or other area hospital
- Artifacts from local physicians or lawyers office
- Artifacts from local photography studio, ca. 1910 (cameras, backdrops, props, darkroom equip., etc.)
- China, regalia, jewels, etc. used by Masons, Odd Fellows, or other societies in Union Building or other area- lodges
- Photographs of community events on 3rd floor of Union Building
- Local temperance group memorabilia
- Documents (program, photos) relating to Masons 50th Anniversary banquet