

INTRODUCTION TO YESTERDAY

Keweenaw County Historical Society

Open mid June thru September

**Lighthouse Museum
and More**
at Eagle Harbor

Phoenix Church
at Phoenix

Central Mine
at Central

Rathbone School
at Eagle Harbor

**Bammert
Blacksmith Shop**
at Phoenix

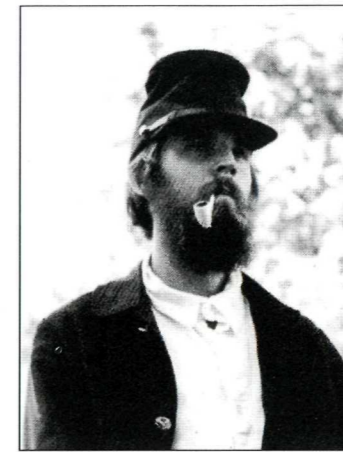
**Eagle Harbor
Lifesaving Station**
at Eagle Harbor

Gay School
at Gay

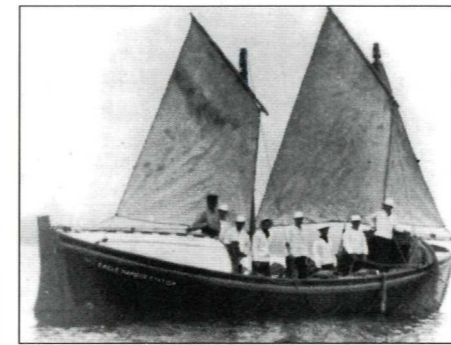
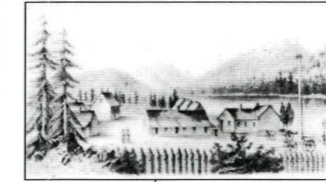
Eagle River Museum
at Eagle River



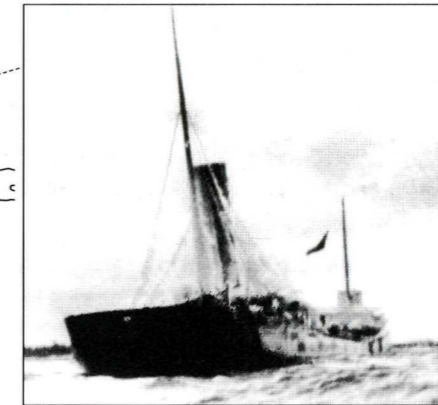
Keweenaw Heritage Site
Partner of Keweenaw National Historical Park



Fort Wilkins was established in 1844 to protect early miners working on recently ceded Indian lands. No trouble occurred, but the original fort buildings, supported by living history personnel still stand in tribute to Keweenaw's most exciting era.



The U.S. Life Saving Service installed the Eagle Harbor Station in 1912. From here, brave seamen risked their lives manning open surf boats on behalf of faltering ships off Keweenaw.

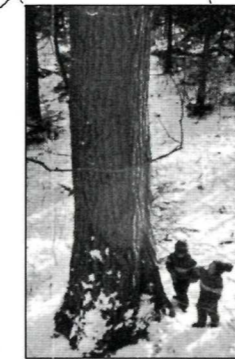


L.C. Waldo



Mesquite

On November 7, 1913, the Steamer L.C. Waldo survived 3 days of ferocious gales while perched atop Gull Rock. 76 years later the Coast Guard Cutter Mesquite took up her final residence in nearby waters.

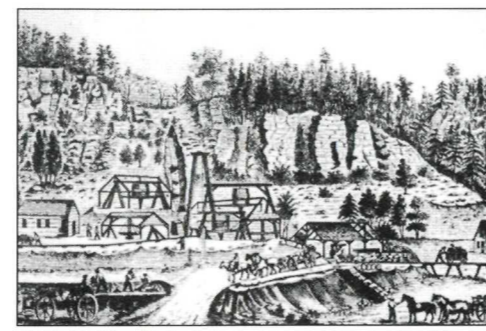
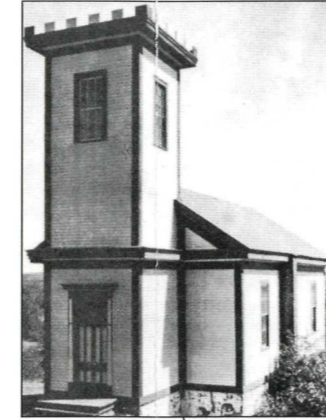


The centuries-old Estivant Pines were saved from the saw by concerned citizens who felt that such grandeur deserves a tomorrow.

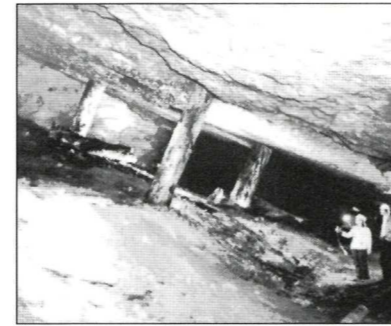


Organized in 1905, the community of Gay grew to a peak of 1200 residents, most of them bound to the Mohawk and Wolverine stamp mills. Since operations ceased in the early 1930's the population has dwindled to 50 loyal people.

Built in 1868, Central's M.E. Church served this mining town of 1200 until it shut down in 1898. A "Homecoming" service held every summer since 1907 keeps the church alive.



The Cliff, which began operations in 1844, was Keweenaw's first profitable mine, producing 40 million pounds of copper, much of it being chiseled from great masses weighing 100 tons or more.



Opened in 1847, the Delaware Mine was not one of Keweenaw's big successes, but it has outlived all others, thanks to daily underground tours through Summer and Fall.



Old cemeteries are true links between yesterday and today, for the descriptive epitaphs speak clearly of the hardships encountered during Keweenaw's formative years.

One cannot feel history from the automobile, so take leisurely walks through our old and abandoned villages, around mine sites and historic landmarks, allowing time to reflect upon those who have gone before. Your visit will be greatly enriched.

Help Preserve Keweenaw's Proud Heritage

Founded in 1980, the Keweenaw County Historical Society depends on the generous contributions of members and friends to fund its continuing preservation, restoration and exhibition work.

The members of the Society have profound respect for those who went before, those who created the history we study and preserve. And we have a profound responsibility to those who will come after, to ensure that the history is still there.

We are the connecting link, and it is important that we do our job well. Every membership and every gift is vital – we could not continue the Society's important and exciting work without such support. Please join us! Members of the Society receive our award-winning quarterly newsletter, the *Superior Signal*, and other benefits.

To join, or ask for additional information about membership, or assist our work with a donation, please use the form on the reverse side. Detach along the perforation and mail it to the Society today. Your involvement will be very much appreciated.

Visit us online at www.keweenawhistory.org

or
Scan the QR Code below with a reader app on your smartphone or tablet device for direct access. Thank You.



*We invite you to join the
Keweenaw County Historical Society*

Yes, I am interested in assisting the work of the Society

Please sign me up as a member. My first year dues are enclosed.

Historian\$30 per year
 Copper Miner\$50 per year
 Lightkeeper.....\$75 or more per year
 Life\$500

Please mail me additional information about Society membership.

I'm not interested in membership, but want to help. My \$_____ donation is enclosed.

I wish to volunteer: please contact me.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____



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or
Scan the QR Code below with a reader app on your smartphone or tablet device for direct access. Thank You.

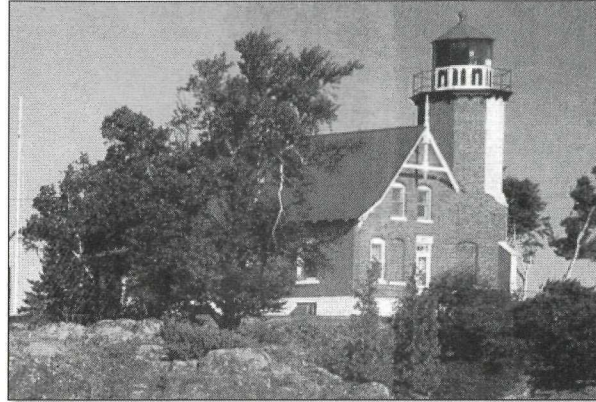


Please detach at perforation
and mail to:

Keweenaw County Historical Society
670 LIGHTHOUSE ROAD
EAGLE HARBOR, MICHIGAN 49950
www.keweenawhistory.org

Thank You!

Eagle Harbor Lighthouse and Museums



In the mid-19th century, when roads to this area were almost non-existent, the infant community of Eagle Harbor saw a dramatic increase in waterborne commerce, including incoming settlers and supplies and outgoing shipments of copper and timber.

Lake Superior's unreliable disposition meant that incoming and passing ships needed navigational assistance, and in 1851 the original lighthouse was commissioned. The wooden tower which supported a fourth-order Fresnel lens illuminated by a sperm oil lamp quickly deteriorated and was replaced in 1871 by the present red brick structure. In 1895 a fog signal was added, and in 1929 a radio beacon was installed to further assist lake navigation and communication between ship and shore.

In 1968, the original lens was replaced by aviation beacon-type red and white lights, which beam their warning to ships more than 20 miles offshore. After serving under 21 keepers during its first 129 years, the lighthouse became automated in 1980.

The Keweenaw County Historical Society became the 22nd "keeper of the light" in 1982, and through museum exhibits, period furnishings and interpretive devices, the proud history of Eagle Harbor's most prominent structure has been brought back into sharp focus.

Besides the lighthouse there are three museums on the lighthouse site. A Maritime Museum is in the old fog signal building and watch building, a Keweenaw Mining Museum, and a Keweenaw Commercial Fishing Museum.

In 1999 the Congress of the United States transferred ownership of the Eagle Harbor Light Station to the Historical Society. The Coast Guard continues to operate the light at the top of the tower.

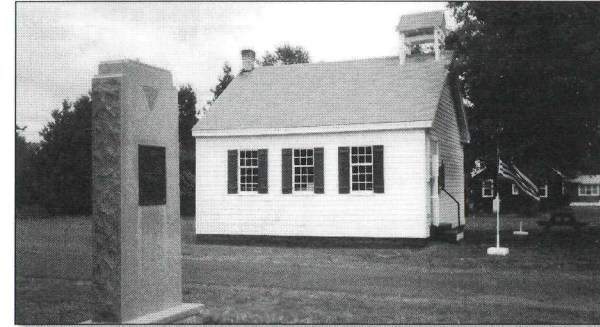
The Light Station site is open year round. The lighthouse and museums are open:

- Mid June to June 30 Everyday, Noon – 5pm
- July and August Mon. – Sat., 10am – 5pm
 Sunday, Noon – 5pm
- Sept. – Early Oct. Everyday, Noon – 5pm

Admission \$5.00 – Children are free.

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Rathbone Schoolhouse



Also in Eagle Harbor, two blocks west of the harbor's swimming beach, this extensively restored one-room school served the community from 1853 to 1872. It was in this building that Justus H. Rathbone, who began teaching here in 1860, conceived the idea for the ritual of the Knights of Pythias, a secret fraternal society which he founded. This interdenominational organization, which had a peak membership of a quarter-million, continues to conduct its charitable work across North America.

The school has long been an object of pilgrimage by Pythians. In 1931, a thousand members gathered to pay homage to their society's founder and to witness the unveiling of the nearby granite monument in honor of Justus Rathbone.

The historic property was deeded by the Pythians to the Keweenaw County Historical Society in 1982. Its interior is furnished as it was in its time as a school and includes Knights of Pythias exhibits.

The Rathbone School is open mid-June to early October. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Donation requested.

GPS: N47 27.582 W88 09.558

Phoenix Church

The church is located on highway U.S. 41 in Phoenix at the junction of M-26 to Eagle River.

St. Mary's Church was built in 1858 to serve the Catholic residents in the mining community of Cliff, scene of the area's first major copper discovery in 1844.



Services continued until 1899 when the church was dismantled and reassembled in Phoenix, where it was renamed The Church of the Assumption. Masses were held until 1957, when The Church of the Assumption's last service marked a century of providing spiritual guidance to mining families and their descendants.

In 1985 the Keweenaw County Historical Society took over the property and began extensive repair and restoration work.

The Church of the Assumption, frequently referred to as the Phoenix Church, now appears much as it did when folks from another century knelt in prayer, a fitting memorial to one chapter of Keweenaw's proud heritage. Although now deconsecrated, the church is still used for weddings, memorial services and an annual Mass.

The Phoenix Church is open late May to early October. 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. Donations requested.

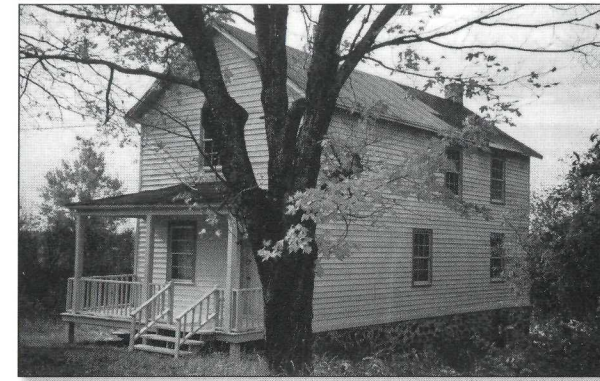
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Central Mine

One of the most noteworthy historical sites in Keweenaw County is Central, a village that once was the home for over 1200 people, and the site of one of Keweenaw's most successful mines. The mine, opened in 1854, produced nearly 52 million pounds of copper by the time it closed in 1898.

Central is located on U.S. 41 about two miles east of the junction of the road to Eagle Harbor.

Decendents of Central mining families gather each year, on the last Sunday in July, at the old Methodist Episcopal Church for the Central Reunion. The church, erected in 1868, with its distinctive battlemented tower reflecting the Cornish ancestry of many Central families, closed in 1903. It is reopened on each Reunion Sunday for a service of tribute to the hardy pioneers of all faiths from all the early copper mines that dotted Keweenaw County in the early days of mining.



Several of the miner's homes still stand on the site. In 1996, the Keweenaw County Historical Society acquired 38 acres of the old Central site, including several of the remaining structures. Many of the residence exteriors have been restored, and a visitors center provides interpretive exhibits about Central. The exhibits are focused not only on the mine, but also on the miners' families, homes, schools, and churches.

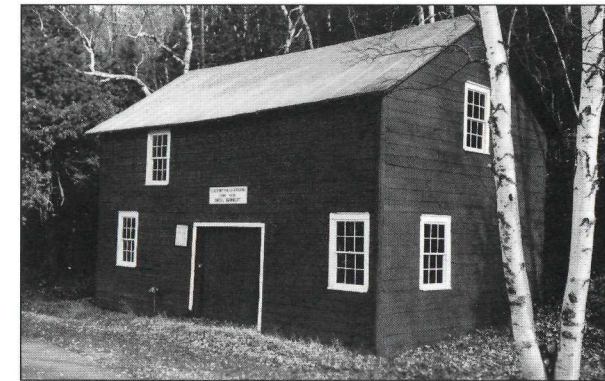
Once a thriving community, then a mining ghost town, Central is reemerging as an important and interesting memorial to the thousands of men, women and children who, for half a century, endured the hardships of wilderness isolation and the dangers of hard rock mining in search of opportunity in the New World.

The Central site is open year-round. Please respect the privacy of dwelling occupants. Visitor Center open early June to late October. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Donation requested.

GPS: N47 24.346 W88 12.0257

Bammert Blacksmith Shop

The Bammert Blacksmith Shop is located in Phoenix, on the road to Eagle River, just north of the junction with highway U.S. 41.



Donated to the society in 1998 by the grandsons of blacksmith Amos Bammert, the shop was built in the 1880's at the Cliff Mine location and moved to Phoenix in about 1906. Amos, born in 1863, operated the shop until his death in 1940. Blacksmiths were much in demand in the early days of Keweenaw copper mining, as horse drawn carriages and wagons were the principal means of land transportation until the arrival of the Keweenaw Central Railroad in 1907. In addition to shoeing horses, blacksmiths could repair and make almost anything made of metal. Amos built buggies, sleighs, and wagon wheels in this shop. Many of the tools of the blacksmith trade, including the forge, were left undisturbed in the building when the business was closed. The Society has restored the building's exterior and interior; exhibiting the shop and equipment as they were at the end of the nineteenth century.

The Bammert Blacksmith Shop is open mid-June to early October. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

GPS: N47 23.558 W88 16.593

Eagle Harbor Life-Saving Station



Located at the marina in Eagle Harbor, Michigan, the Life-Saving Station was established in 1912 and operated until 1951. Now an active museum, the Life-Saving Station building exhibits include a 36-foot motor life boat, 26-foot motor surfboat, a surfboat trailer, life car, Lyle gun, beach and line carts, numerous photographs and memorabilia. The existing building replaced the original structure in 1939.

The Eagle Harbor Lifesaving Station is open mid-June to early October. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

GPS: N47 27.543 W88 08.931

Schoolhouse at Gay



Constructed in 1927, the schoolhouse at Gay was built to serve families who worked at the stamp mills of the Mohawk and Wolverine Mining companies, plus several commercial fishing families. The town of Gay was named after Joseph E. Gay, one of the founders of the Mohawk and Wolverine Mining Company. This site is under renovation but already has a variety of historical exhibits.

The Gay Schoolhouse Museum is open Wed. & Sat. June through September. Noon to 3 p.m.

GPS: N47 13.645 W88 09.764

Eagle River Museum



Located in the Eagle River Community Building; its photographic exhibits and videos tell the story of Douglas Houghton, the Cliff Mine, Eagle River, and the Crestview Amusement Park. Among its many artifacts is a fully restored 1852 W.P. Emerson Square Grand Piano that came to Eagle River in 1853. Also, it features the restored pilot house that came floating a shore when the Tioga sank off Eagle River in 1919.

The Eagle River Historical Museum is open mid-June to early October. Wed., Fri. & Sat. noon - 4 p.m.

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