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Dana L. Richter papers MTU-239

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English

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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

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URL: <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mtuarchives/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Dana L. Richter papers
ID:	MTU-239
Date [inclusive]:	1905-2019
Date [bulk]:	(Bulk 1993-2005)
Physical Description:	0.35 cubic feet (1 manuscript box)
Language of the Material:	English .
Mixed Materials [box]:	1
Abstract:	Papers, 1905-2019, of Dana Richter, former faculty member of Michigan Technological University's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science and local Copper Country historian.

Preferred Citation

MTU-239, Dana L. Richter Papers, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Biographical Note

Dana Richter grew up in Montgomery, Minnesota and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in biology from Saint Cloud State University in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Richter relocated to the Upper Peninsula in 1983 and completed doctoral studies in forest biology with an emphasis in mycology. Following his doctoral program, Richter became a research scientist and adjunct associate professor at Michigan Tech's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science where he worked for 26 years. Richter has been active in the Audubon Society since 1979, serving as president of the Copper Country chapter since the mid-1990s, was a founding

member of the Keweenaw Land Trust, has served as a board member of the Friends of the Van Pelt Library. In 2016 Richter was named Michigan Tech's Research of the Year.

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Historical Note

The Finnish Farmers Association was officially established by nine Finnish men, who served as the organization's first trustees, on March 26, 1914. Under the leadership of these initial directors, the group sought to improve its knowledge and agricultural ability, emphasizing scientific techniques, pricing strategies, bargaining methods, familiarity with laws affecting farmers, and fraternal cooperation among the farmers.

Finnish farmers gathering together to promote their agricultural interests was hardly new to Houghton County, however. The association followed the precedent set by a group of men who had gathered at Salo in 1905 to incorporate the Finnish Farmers' Milling Company. On Boston Creek, they constructed what a later writer hypothesized to be the first water-driven grain grist mill in Houghton County; there, they would "grind and manufacture all kinds of grain, flour, and feed," per their Articles of Association, and sell the fruits of their labors. At its peak, the mill--which operated only in the autumn and early spring, as water levels permitted--could grind forty barrels of flour in a day for its customers. The mill operated successfully until the 1930s. Electrically-powered mills had emerged as a more convenient alternative, providing the opportunity for farmers to grind their crops at all times of the year. When the term of incorporation of the Finnish Farmers' Milling Company expired, its directors filed to dissolve the company on September 15, 1937.

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Scope and Contents

Papers, 1905-2019, of Dana Richter, former faculty member of Michigan Technological University's School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science and local Copper Country historian. Included in the collection are newspaper articles, certificates and awards; letters of appreciation, lists of course, etc. related to Richter's work in the School of Forestry.

Also included are three black and white photographs of Quincy Mine no. 2 shafthouse, as well as research material and papers written about local Copper Country topics. Included are reproduced primary sources and articles pertaining to the Finnish Farmers Association and Finnish Farmers' Milling Company of Houghton County. Items in the collection include copies of capital stock certificates, legal papers for both groups, and topographical maps showing the location of the latter organization's mill. Also present are two articles written by Dana Richter

in 2016 on the activities of these Finnish farmers--especially those associated with the mill-- and copies of other reminiscent pieces from the Daily Mining Gazette.

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Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Agriculture--Houghton County (Mich.)
- Articles of incorporation -- Michigan
- Forestry schools and education -- Michigan -- Upper Peninsula
- Universities and colleges -- Faculty -- Michigan -- Houghton
- Personal papers
- Resumes (personnel records)
- Mycologists
- Legal documents
- Finnish American farmers
- Clippings (Information artifacts)

- Stock certificates
- Salo (Mich.)
- Michigan Technological University

Collection Inventory

Project files

Title/Description	Instances	
Big Louie monument project file, 2012-2013	box 1	folder 1
Finnish Farmers Association and Finnish Farmers Milling Company research, 1905-2016	box 1	folder 2
The Finnish Farmers Milling Company of Hancock Township, Michigan, 2016	box 1	folder 3
Quincy Mine photographs, 1984	box 1	folder 4
The Quincy Township Quarantine Facility for Smallpox in the Copper Country, 1900-19400, 2019	box 1	folder 5

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School of Forestry papers and correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical and employment history, 1973-2016	box 1	folder 6
Papers, 1993-2005	box 1	folder 7-17

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