



**ArchivesSpace**  
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

# Delaware Copper Mining Company Contract Book MS-894

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 12, 2021.  
English  
Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country  
Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive  
Houghton 49931

[copper@mtu.edu](mailto:copper@mtu.edu)

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

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Organizational note .....	3
Collection Scope and Content Summary .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Delaware Copper Mining Company Contract Book
<b>ID:</b>	MS-894
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	March 15, 1876-May 10, 1876
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.01 Cubic Feet 1 folder
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Mixed Materials [sc_box]:</b>	MS 5
<b>[folder]:</b>	22
<b>Abstract:</b>	Contract book for the Delaware Copper Mining Company, 1876.

### Preferred Citation

MS-894, Delaware Copper Mining Company Contract Book, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Organizational note

---

Located 12 miles southwest of Copper Harbor, the Delaware Copper Mine dates from 1847-1887. Eight million pounds of copper were removed from the five shafts that reached a depth of 1,400 feet with ten levels. Known originally as the Northwest Mine, it opened on a fissure deposit in 1847 and produced more than 500,000 lbs of copper over three years, but it cost more to produce the copper than it sold for.

After struggling along for 10 years with an annual deficit, the mine was reorganized as the Pennsylvania. Now working the bedded deposits, rather than the fissure deposits, prospects looked so good that a new stamp mill was erected on Lac LaBelle, 5 miles from the mine. A second company was formed, called the Delaware, and also built a stamp mill on Lac LaBelle. Even with the high price of copper during the Civil War the companies could not turn a profit.

In 1876 there was a reorganization and the combined properties renamed the Delaware Copper Mining Company.

The new company had no better luck than the old one and suffered the same financial fate. After five years of losing money a new conglomerate lode was discovered under the greenstone. A new company, called the Conglomerate, was formed. Although the lode was large, it was deficient in copper content and much of the fine copper was lost in the recovery process. The name was changed several times but no further development took place until Calumet and Hecla took over the property under the name of the Manitou Mining Company.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Collection Scope and Content Summary

---

Contract book, 1876, of the Delaware Copper Mining Company of Delaware, Michigan. The mine also operated under the names Northwest Copper Company, Pennsylvania Mining Company, and Conglomerate Mining Company between 1847 and 1887. Contract book includes names of the miners, as well as the type of work contracted for and the rate to be paid.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton 49931

[copper@mtu.edu](mailto:copper@mtu.edu)

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

### Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

## Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Wages -- Copper miners -- Michigan -- Keweenaw County
- Contracts
- Delaware (Mich.)
- Copper mines and mining -- Employees

---

## Collection Inventory

---

Title/Description	Instances
Contract book, March 15, 1876-May 10, 1876 <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	