

How to Donate Your Archival Materials...

The Finnish American National Historical Archive gladly accepts donated materials from individuals, families and organizational groups. If you are interested in donating your materials to the Archive, we encourage you to work with the Archivist to create a donation plan right for you or your organization's needs.

Examples of materials archived from groups include; architectural records, articles of incorporation, bylaws, constitutions, financial records, handbooks, legal documents, meeting minutes, membership lists, newsletters and publications, planning documents, annual reports, scrapbooks and subject files. Examples of materials archived from individuals and families include; letters, diaries, memoirs/reminiscences, scrapbooks and photo albums, genealogical information, books and professional papers.

Donations in any size are accepted. Once a donation is accepted, expect to receive a "Thank You" letter and a Deed of Gift. A Deed of Gift is a document that formally signs over ownership of the materials to the Archive. In some instances a variation on the Deed of Gift may be used that does not sign over ownership to the Archive. This document is known as an "indefinite loan" and allows donors to retain ownership of their materials while storing them in the Archive. Donors may also restrict the use of any materials donated. This is typically done with sensitive materials that are part of a larger collection. Not all materials are universally accepted; work with the Archivist to help determine what can be culled.

FINNISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

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Guide to the Finnish American Historical Archive

An Overview of the Repository



Images from the Finnish American Historical Archive's Historic Photograph Collection

Discover, Learn and Research

- Significance of the Historical Archive
- What is and what is in the Archive
- Collections Statement and Overview
- How to donate personal, family and organizational materials

The Finnish American Historical Archive...

strives to foster and promote an ethic of heritage ethos by offering patrons and visitors a place to discover, learn and research Finnish North America, Finland and its constituent components. The Archive links patrons to Finnish North America by encouraging and facilitating research relating to themes in Finnish North American and Finnish heritage, history and culture through the collection, preservation, interpretation and services it offers to the public.



Finnish Seaman's Mission, ca. 1910, San Francisco, California. Records from this group are in the Finnish American Historical Archive.

An archival repository collects and preserves written, visual and audible materials for future generations. Unlike a library, an archive is generally not a lending institution. Materials may not be checked out from an archive. Instead the archive's staff



Maggie Walz, Apostolic Lutheran, temperance crusader, land agent and feminist who worked to give women the right to vote; her story is preserved in the Finnish American Historical Archive.

brings materials to patrons for use in a reading room. An archivist is a cross between a historian and a librarian. It is the job of an archivist to organize, preserve and process the materials in the repository. Additionally, the archivist acts as an advocate for the repository and facilitates the use of the materials stored in the archive. Part of this facilitation includes knowledge of the repository and the creation of finding aides, indexes and guides to acquaint users with what is preserved in the archive. We invite and hope to help you explore the interesting materials contained within the Archive.

We are currently working to make the Manuscripts Collection more indicative of the overall Finnish North American experience. This means we are actively pursuing manuscript materials from persons and organizations not affiliated with Suomi College or the Suomi Synod.

Monographs (Library) Collection

This collection of library materials uses a modified version of the Dewey Decimal System of organization that fits the needs of an ethnic history collection. Topics include national, regional and local histories, fiction and poetry, folkways, Finnish design, Australian Finns, Sami sociological studies, reference materials and the Finnish Winter War.



"83 Murdered"-from Finnish American labor newspaper *Tyomies*' assessment of the Italian Hall Disaster, 1913

Newspapers and Periodicals Collection

The Newspapers and Periodicals Collection well represents the vast cross-section of organizational culture that existed within Finnish North America, including publications from the labor and political movements, cooperative movement, religious institutions and temperance movements. The Archive also has a number of current newsletters, newspapers and periodicals pertaining to Finnish North America and Finland.

Oral History Collection

This collection contains a valuable resource, the 1970s Oral History Project. An alphabetical index organized by interviewee exists for this project. Many of these oral histories have been transcribed and include interviews with immigrant and first generation "Finns." This collection also contains first hand accounts of the Italian Hall Disaster and non-Finnish interviews with influential Copper Country residents such as William Parsons Todd and former Calumet Police Chief John Sullivan.

Vertical Files Collection

The vertical files are a hodgepodge of historical and current materials relating to Finnish North American (and Finnish) culture, heritage and history. This collection contains historical ephemera, newspaper clippings, photo reproductions, ads, announcements and Xeroxed articles.

Collections Overview

Audio-visual Collection

This collection contains a large assemblage of classical and folk music including selections by Finnish national composer Jean Sibelius, former Suomi College music director Martti Nisonen and radio host Rudy Kempa's Collection. The collection also contains film/video productions. Media formats contained within the collection range from sheet music, phonograph records, reel-to-reels, cassette tapes, compact discs, film, VHS and digital video discs (DVD). Equipment for use is on site.

Genealogy Collection

A very broad collection that includes microfilmed Finnish church records dating back to the late 16th century, Finnish American church records, local cemetery and funeral home records, historic photographs, church and temperance calendars, family histories, books, newspapers, obituary clippings and on-line subscription resources such as the Institute of Migration's web site that has access to Finnish passenger and passport records. This collection also includes non-Finnish American resources such as hard copies of the *Daily Mining Gazette*, the *Evening Copper Journal*, Swedish-American resources and a Library Edition of Ancestry.com, which is open to public use on the Family History Computer.

Historic Photograph Collection

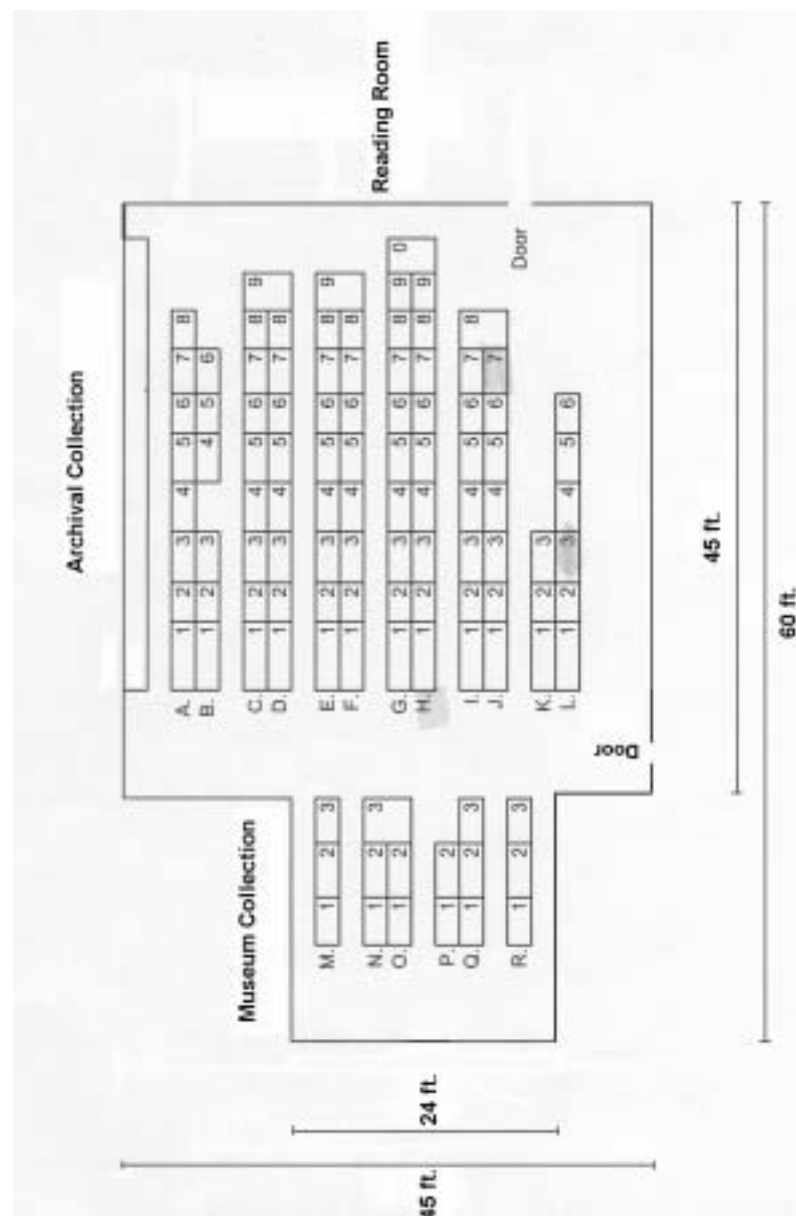
This 5,000 plus image resource is divided into a unique organizational structure that suits the needs of a Finnish American collection. Categories include Individual Donors, Family and Genealogy, Immigration and Folk Ways, Landscapes and Organizational Culture.

Manuscripts Collection

The Manuscripts Collection contains minutes, financial ledgers and other unique, original and one of a kind materials from various individuals and organizational groups associated with Finnish America. The collection is especially strong in materials from the Suomi College-Synod and temperance movements.



Meeting minutes book (poytakirja) from a cooperative group



Significance Statement

The Finnish American National Historical Archive is the oldest and largest repository of Finnish North American materials in the entire world. The repository began collecting materials in 1932 and with the generosity of its donors, has assembled a unique and vast collection of archival materials. Dr. Armas Holmio was an essential early component in getting the Archive on its feet. His work laid the foundation for future collecting and preservation efforts.



Rev. Dr. Armas K.E. Holmio in the Finnish American Historical Archives, 1954. At this time, the Archive was in Nikander Hall.

The archival collections contain a broad spectrum of materials that represent the complexity of Finnish America. The Archive's collections include materials about Finnish North Americans involved in the Industrial Workers of the World, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, cooperative movements, the Knights and Ladies of Kaleva, Evangelical Lutheran churches in America, Laestadian movements and many other groups. Within the repository there are vibrant contextual histories of Finnish America. Often at odds with each other, the drama, happiness, joy and sorrow of Finnish America is administered, preserved and secured in the humidity and temperature controlled stacks of the Archive's storage area.



Socialist Party of America Membership Card issued to Hilja Fraki in California.

Academic and scholarly researchers, family historians and the general public use the archival collection to discover, learn and research the eclectic history of Finnish America. As an archive, we are not able to place a value on the materials in our collections, but to our many researchers the information contained within the Finnish American Historical Archive is invaluable.

Scope of Collections

As a repository collecting materials from a single ethnic group, the Finnish American Historical Archive is particular about what it accepts into its collections. The Archivist often has to make difficult decisions about what to take in and what has to be graciously declined, a formal document called the Scope of Collections guides these decisions.

The Finnish American Historical Archive collects materials of Finnish North American organizations, individual Finnish North Americans, publications relating to Finnish North America, Swede-Finnish North Americans and Finnish immigrants. The Archive also collects historic materials from Finland in an attempt to maintain the contextual history of Finnish immigration. In addition to more conventional archival materials, such as manuscript materials and periodicals, the Finnish American Historical Archive collects genealogical material from families and individuals. Because of its mission as a family history center, the Archive accepts genealogical materials from Finnish North America, Swede-Finnish North America, and Finland, Sweden, northern Norway, and Lapland.



1908 postcard from Finland to an American relative in Hancock, Michigan, showing the Saima Canal, also known as the "Czar's Canal." In the mid-1850s, the Russian Czar (who controlled Finland at this time), connected the Saima Lake system and Lappeenranta with the Gulf of Finland and Vyborg. This postcard and others are preserved in the Finnish American Historical Archive as material historical links between Finland and America.