

St. Louis County Historical Society Traveling Exhibits Program



St. Louis County Heritage & Arts Center
506 West Michigan Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
218.733.7507
thehistorypeople.org



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Traveling Exhibits – General Information

The St. Louis County Historical Society offers a variety of traveling exhibits to any interested business or organization. The exhibit themes are:

- American Indian
- Fine Art and Photographs
- Immigrants
- Local and County History
- Military

All exhibits offer an educational experience related to the history of St. Louis County, MN. Some may include information related to Lake County and Cook County.

Loan times:

- As short as two weeks
- As long as 24 months

An advance request of at least one month is highly recommended.

- Phone: 218.733.7507
- Email: Kathleen@thehistorypeople.org

The Society requires the following prior to releasing any exhibit on loan:

- Completed Reservation Request Form
- Proof of insurance
- Full payment of \$75 handling fee

Borrowers must transport the exhibits in a clean, enclosed vehicle (no open-backed pick-up trucks or trailers).

Exhibits are to be picked up and returned to the St. Louis County Historical Society on the agreed-upon dates.

Ojibwe Faces and Stories

Eastman Johnson was an American artist who is best known for his work showing ordinary people engaged in common activities.

In 1856, Johnson hired Stephen Bonga, an Ojibwe and African American man, to serve as his guide in the area near Superior, Wisconsin. The men traveled together and spent time with native Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) people in Grand Portage, the Apostle Islands, and the area that is now Duluth. During that time, Johnson created numerous paintings and charcoal drawings of the Ojibwe people in intimate, casual poses.



Ojibwe Faces and Stories includes high-quality reproductions of the Society's entire Eastman Johnson collection. Each piece includes label text that was developed by Thomas O'Sullivan, former Curator of Art of Minnesota Historical Society, and approved by the Society's American Indian Advisory Committee.

The original pieces of art are fragile and can only withstand rare and carefully limited exhibition. Thus, this traveling exhibit enables more people to see the collection.

The exhibit includes a map of the Ojibwe world at the time, of which Grand Portage was the center. The paintings and drawings are grouped together in categories:

- Ancestral Portraits
- Scenes of Everyday Life
- Continuing Dialog (a panel featuring photographs and quotations from contemporary Ojibwe people of this region)

Dimensions:

8 panels – each is 47" w x 82" h

35 running feet of wall space are needed to display this exhibit.

The three possible methods of installation are detailed in Appendix 1.

Fine Art and Photographs

Albin Zaverl Artwork: *Old Country Memories*

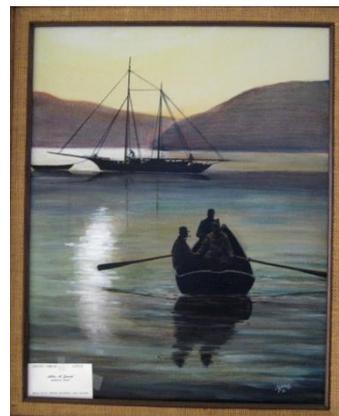
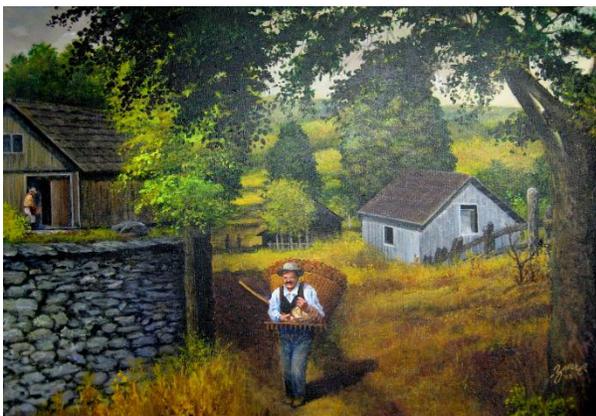
Old Country Memories offers a window to the recollections of one of the Iron Range's earliest pioneer groups, the Yugoslavian immigrants.

Albin Zaverl was born in 1920 in Ely, Minnesota, to immigrants John and Jozefa Zaverl. His parents worked hard and raised their family with Slovenian traditions. A prolific painter, Albin studied at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts and created a treasure trove of artwork depicting his parents' memories.

The originals in this exhibit include acrylics on canvas or hardboard, pastels, and watercolors. They vary in style from natural renditions to whimsical. Typically, the curator selects 12-20 paintings for inclusion in a traveling exhibit.

Dimensions:

Pictures range in size. Frame styles vary. Generally, only pastels have glass. Install on standard picture hooks.



Children of the Finnish Homesteads *Growing up in Northern Minnesota, 1900-1945*

Children of the Finnish Homesteads is dedicated to the immigrants who settled and lived in rural America in the early 20th century. The photographs and artifacts portray the Finnish way of life in northeastern Minnesota and reveal a fascinating part of the state's cultural history.

The first Finnish immigrants to Minnesota arrived in 1864, with the largest wave arriving between 1895 and 1910. They came to America to take advantage of the 1862 Federal Homestead Act and were drawn to northern Minnesota by the pine forests and mining jobs.

Many settled and raised their families in the Brimson-Toimi area, northeast of Duluth. This exhibit focuses on the children of those Finnish immigrants. The photos and short narratives describe their daily family and farm life, including chores, hardships, and pastimes.



Dimensions:

1 title panel: 68" w x 13³/₄" h x 1¹/₄" thick

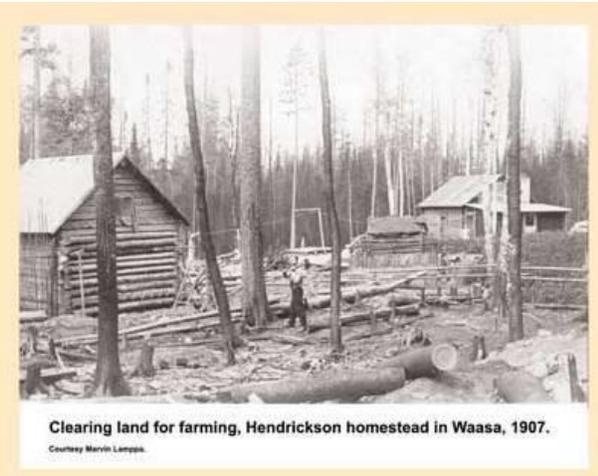
12 panels: vary from 35"-37" w x 48" h x 2" thick



Finns of Western Lake Superior

Finns of Western Lake Superior covers the socio-political and cultural aspects of Finnish immigrants' lives in this area. Most of the photos and information are from the years 1895 through 1910, which is when the largest wave of Finnish immigrants arrived.

Dimensions:



4 self-standing panels
Each is 34" w x 82" h

Each panel is accompanied by a supplemental flipbook, which contains additional detailed educational text.

THE MAKING OF THE REGION AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE FINNS

If there is a unifying factor to the experience of the Finns in the Western Lake Superior Region, it can be found in the institutions they established. Churches, temperance societies, workers' organizations, cooperatives, halls, theater groups, the Finnish press, the wasteland they turned into farms—all proclaimed a high ideal, something greater than individual gain; a foundation for a better tomorrow, whether it be the "Kingdom of Heaven," elimination of "Demon Rum," justice for the workers, consumers' cooperatives, intellectual and spiritual growth. All contributed to the life of these immigrants, and through them to life in America.



Ethnic Finns were among copper miners from northern Norway recruited to work in Michigan's Quincy Mine. Many were Lascadians, outspoken in their condemnation of worldly things and unwavering in their apocalyptic, non-institutionalized, Christianity.
Courtesy Langdon Miller, Researcher in Chief



Finns from Michigan moved into the region west of Duluth. By 1890, this area had become a mecca for Lascadian Apostolic Lutherans. Charles A. Marko (née Nymen) farm near Thomson, 1902.
Courtesy Langdon Miller, Researcher in Chief



More Finns, many Swedish speakers from Ostrobothnia, found work in the sawmills around Cloquet. Saurby Cain Sawmill in Mahtowa, 1900.
Courtesy Langdon Miller, Researcher in Chief



Minnesota Mine Workers. By 1907 U.S. Steel employed 10,189 men in its Minnesota mines. Less than 200 spoke English. Finns were the largest ethnic group among them.
Courtesy Langdon Miller, Researcher in Chief

Preserving the Old Country:

The Experiences of Croatians, Serbians, and Slovenians in St. Louis

Preserving the Old Country looks at the background and cultural heritage of people who immigrated to Minnesota from the “Old Country” (formerly Yugoslavia and now Croatia, Serbia, and Slovenia).

There were two main immigration time periods. The first began in the 1860s. The second and larger wave, which took place between the 1880s and the 1920s, brought a large number of South Slavic immigrants into St. Louis County. Many of the immigrants worked in the mines on the Iron Range.

This exhibit explores some of the background for these immigrations. It also looks at the cultural heritage the immigrants brought with them, including their food, music, and family values.



Serbian immigrant family, 1920



Tamburitza band

Dimensions:

6 free-standing, wooden panels. Each panel is 100" h x 51.5" w x 5" thick when folded for transport.

Immigrants

To America with Love:

Journey of a Young Woman from Southern Italy to Northeast Minnesota

This exhibit appeals to anyone interested in the early history of Hibbing, the lives of immigrant women, and immigrants from Italy.

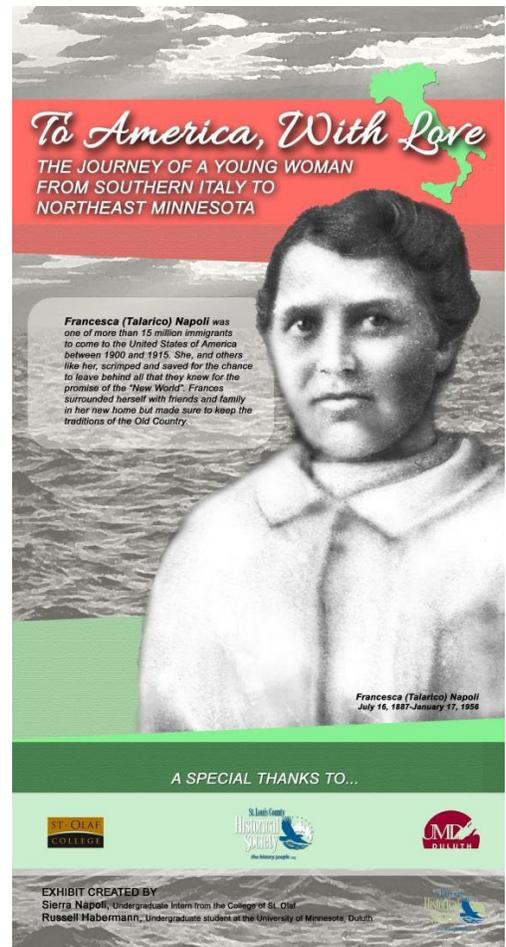
To America with Love focuses on the life of Francesca Napoli, an Italian American woman who emigrated to the U.S. from Napoli, Italy, in 1910. She got married and moved to Hibbing one year later. The exhibit is presented through seven categories:

- From Italy to America
- Family life
- Religion
- Work
- Food
- The family home
- Naturalization

The content for this exhibit was created in 2013 by Sierra Napoli, Francesca Napoli's great-, great-granddaughter and an intern at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. The design was created by Russell Haberman, a University of Minnesota Duluth student.

Dimensions:

8 lightweight framed panes, each 24" w x by 46.5" h



Local and County History

Marshall Wells Hardware

In the early 20th century, Duluth-based Marshall Wells Hardware was the largest hardware wholesaler in the United States and the third largest in the world. The company had annual sales of \$100 million and operated more than 1,000 retail stores in North America.

Marshall Wells Hardware showcases the company as it existed between 1900 and 1910. Photos, diagrams, and reproduced catalog pages provide a sampling of the goods the company offered.

The exhibit consists of hanging wall panels with multiple image and text overlays, and a flipbook pedestal.



Dimensions:

- 1 large panel – 91" h x 45" w x ½" thick
- 9 panels containing images and narrative – 60" h x 36" w x 1½" thick (Require two specifically placed large hooks each to hang).
- Flipbook floor pedestal – 37" w x 30½" h x 15" (front-to-back)
- Exhibit title sign – 54" w x 14¾" h

Local and County History

Return to the River

St. Louis County's history – social, political, economic, and environmental – is deeply rooted in the history of the St. Louis River, which is the second largest tributary into Lake Superior.

Return to the River explores the early usage of the river by native Ojibwe people; industrial use of the lower and middle sections and its resulting pollution; and the clean-up efforts made possible by environmental legislation since 1948.

The educational components of the exhibit include:

- Return of the sturgeon
- Graphic illustrations of earlier fish kills caused by sludge from industrial dumping
- Simple steps that anyone can take to avoid polluting the river and Lake Superior

It is suitable for educating all ages. One-page brochures are available for distribution.



Dimensions:

10 hinged, wooden panels (each 72" h x 24" w), totaling 21 linear feet

Local and County History

The Promise, The Promise Kept, The Promise Realized, The Promise Renewed: *The History of The Erie Mining Company*



The Erie Mining Company (EMC) in Northeast Minnesota was the world's first commercially successful taconite mine and processing plant. Taconite is a low-grade of iron ore and for many years was viewed as a waste rock not fit for use. However, that view began to change as the supply of high-grade iron ore decreased.

EMC pioneered an economically feasible method of mining and processing the ore. Between 1940 and 2001, when the company closed, EMC produced more than 330 million tons of taconite pellets. Those pellets were subsequently turned into steel, a metal that is critical to the nation's security and advancement of its standard of living.

The History of the Erie Mining Company is one of three projects designed to tell the company's history and explain the key role it played on a national and local level. The other two projects are:

- The book "Taconite, New Life for Minnesota's Iron Range – the History of Erie Mining Company," which was published in 2019
- "A County Built on Iron," which is a large, fixed exhibit in the St. Louis County Depot. The exhibit is currently being redesigned.

Dimensions:

The exhibit is roughly 9 feet in diameter, and it has 12 panels and light fixtures. The sections are crated individually for ease of transport and storage. Detailed instructions come with the exhibit, and transport should be in two full-sized pick-up trucks or in a rental truck.

500 Days: *125th Field Artillery Photographs*

500 Days: 125th Field Artillery Photographs looks into some of the experiences of the 125th Field Artillery during WWII. The 125th had the longest continual combat deployment of any unit in WWII – just over 500 days.

The 125th had a disproportionate number of northeastern Minnesota men, including several boys who had lied about their age to sign up after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Moreover, the men served their entire tour together. The 125th was not split up and deployed to various locations, as was a common military practice.

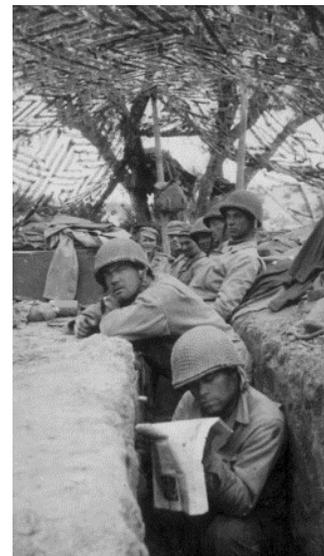
The exhibit includes 14 identically framed black-and-white photos taken by local veterans of the 125th, plus introductory text and sponsor panels.

Dimensions:

16 identical frames – 20” w x 16” h x 2” thick

14 photos and two frames with text

Each frame has a corresponding foam-backed text panel.



Military

Albert Woolson

The Last Civil War Soldier

Veterans say a war isn't over until its last veteran dies. The Civil War officially ended when surrender documents were signed at Appomattox, Virginia, on April 9, 1865. But the Civil War came to its final conclusion in Duluth, Minnesota, with the death of Albert Woolson on August 2, 1956.

Albert Woolson – The Last Civil War Soldier examines Woolson's life from his service in the 1st Minnesota Heavy Artillery Regiment and the Battle of Shiloh to his funeral with full military honors and his burial at Park Hill Cemetery in Duluth.

A statue of Woolson sits in the Michigan Street gardens in front of the St. Louis County Depot.

Dimensions:

8 framed panels – 26" w x 50" h



Albert Woolson, 1864



Lifelong amateur musician



Firing volley at graveside,
Duluth News Tribune photo

Desert Medics



Desert Medics describes the experiences of the 477th Medical Company during Desert Shield/Storm. The 477th is an ambulance unit based in Duluth, located at the Army Reserve base at Park Point.

The unit's incredible journey from Duluth to the Middle East and home again is told through the photographs collected by one of its officers, 1st Lt. Dennis Hughes.

Timeline: November 22, 1990 through Memorial Day, 1991

Dimensions:

17 panels – each is 18" w x 26" h

1 introductory panel – 24" w x 48" h

All panels are lightweight and require shelving or a Walker system for display.



Military Themes

James Joseph Hubert: Duluth WWII Hero Returns Home

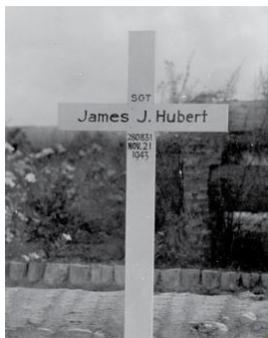
Sergeant James Joseph Hubert, U. S. Marine Corps, served in World War II and lost his life in the Battle of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands on November 21, 1943.

The exhibit tells his story from his childhood in Duluth, Minnesota, to his service during the war and, ultimately, to the repatriation of his remains in 2017.

Sergeant Hubert was buried in Calvary Cemetery in Duluth on July 15, 2017, with full military honors.

Dimensions:

6 canvas panels (2 each in three different sizes):
32" x 84", 32" x 60" and 32" x 36"



Joe Gomer: Honoring a Legacy

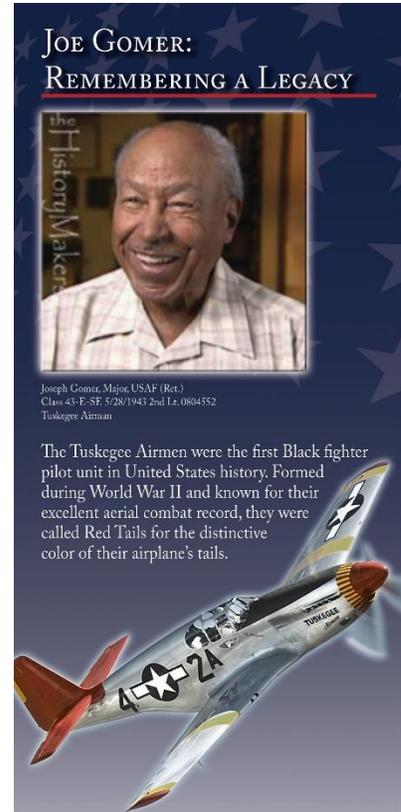
"We're all Americans. That's why we chose to fight. I'm as American as anybody. My black ancestors were brought over here, perhaps against their will, to help build America. My German ancestors came over to build a new life, and my Cherokee ancestors were here to greet all the boats."

– Joe Gomer, Richard L. Bong Veterans Historical Center, oral history interview, 2001

Joe Gomer: Honoring a Legacy spotlights Duluthian Joseph Phillip Gomer, who fought in WWII as a member of the first African American unit of the Army Air Corps.

Gomer was part of the 99th Pursuit Squadron (later known as the 99th Fighter Squadron), which was formed in January 1941 in Tuskegee, Alabama. The pilots in that unit were nicknamed "the Tuskegee Airmen."

The pull-up panels exam Joe's early life, service, and civilian life, as well as the Tuskegee Airmen and desegregation in the military.



Dimensions:

12 pull-up frames
24" wide x 84" tall

Joe Gomer: Preserving a Legacy



"We were fighting two battles. I flew for my parents, for my race, for our battle for first-class citizenship, and for my country. We were fighting for the millions of black Americans back home. We were there to break down barriers, open a few doors, and do a job."
– Joe Gomer, Richard L. Bong Veterans Historical Center, oral history interview, 2001

Joe Gomer: Preserving a Legacy is a wall display that honors Duluthian Joseph Phillip Gomer, who fought in WWII as a member of the first African American unit of the Army Air Corps.

Gomer was part of the 99th Pursuit Squadron (later known as the 99th Fighter Squadron), which was formed in January 1941 in Tuskegee, Alabama. The pilots in that unit were nicknamed "the Tuskegee Airmen" and the "Red Tails."

Following the war, Gomer and his family lived in Duluth, where he was involved in community activism and was committed to ensuring equal opportunities for people of color and women.

The exhibit panels exam Joe's early life, service, and civilian life, as well as the Tuskegee Airmen and desegregation in the military.



Dimensions:

6 identical frames – 25 $\frac{1}{4}$ " w x 64 $\frac{3}{4}$ " h

1 sponsor frame – 73 $\frac{1}{4}$ " w x 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " h

Never Forgotten: Man Behind the Medal

The Life of Medal of Honor Recipient Henry A. Courtney, Jr.

MAN BEHIND THE MEDAL

NEVER FORGOTTEN
COURTNEY

This exhibit is dedicated to Major Henry A. Courtney, Jr., a Duluth native who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country and posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA
Dayton Rogers
OPPIDAN
A Program of the VETERANS' MEMORIAL HALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Exhibit Created by
Patrick Ryan Fenske
Steven Hendrickson
Matt Mehrkens

Dimensions:
8 framed exhibit panels
Each is 24" w x 48" h

This exhibit describes Duluthian Major Henry A. Courtney's brief life, from his Duluth Central High School days, where he was known as the "blonde giant," to his final courageous acts of leadership in the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill in Okinawa, Japan, during WWII.

MAN BEHIND THE MEDAL

NEVER FORGOTTEN
COURTNEY

The 6th Marines on Okinawa
This map depicts the 6th Division's advance in the Battle of Okinawa. The photograph depicts Sugar Loaf Hill as it would have appeared to Bob in 1945, the last obstacle between the Marines and the island's capital, Naha.

Location of Bob's advance up Sugar Loaf Hill on May 15, 1945

The task of taking Sugar Loaf Hill was assigned to the 6th Marine Division, but repeated attempts to hold the hill were brutally beaten back by the Japanese.

Bob personally rallied a small band of men to charge over the top to take the position, a bold act that succeeded; but it cost Bob his life. The Marines lost 1,656 men. Another 7,429 were wounded.

...he pushed ahead with unrelenting aggressiveness..."
- Harry S. Truman, 1947, Medal of Honor Citation

Lacombe Binoculars
These brass binoculars were used by Bob during the battle for Sugar Loaf Hill. They were made by the Lacombe Company of Paris, France.
They now reside in the collection of the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul.

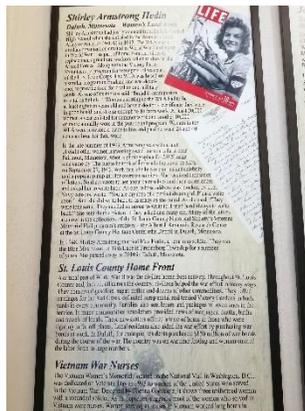
Source Material: 6th Division map sixthmarinedivision.com
Sugar Loaf Hill Photo: iBiblio.org
Sugar Loaf Hill Map: US Army in World War II Atlas
Binoculars: Minnesota Historical Society

Salute to Servicewomen: Women in the United States Military

The St. Louis County Historical Society is pleased to have two exhibits that honor area servicewomen. One exhibit focuses on service women from across the County, and the other focuses specifically on service women from the Iron Range communities.

Duluth Salute to Servicewomen

Dimensions: 5 panels – 32" w x 84" h



Range Salute to Servicewomen

Dimensions: 9 panels – 30" w x 48" h



The 18 – Civil War Exhibit

The 18 – Civil War examines the lives, accomplishments and influence of the 18 men from St. Louis County who volunteered to fight for the Union Forces in the Civil War, 1861-1865.

All but four of the men survived and returned to Duluth, and several of the 18 men were instrumental in fostering the growth of the county. They include:

- Robert Jefferson, the first white man to locate a claim on the site of Duluth
- Joshua Culver, Duluth's first postmaster
- Joshua B. Culver, Duluth's first mayor
- Leonidas Merritt, who walked from Duluth to St. Paul to enlist in 1864 and was a co-discoverer of iron ore on the Range in 1887



Dimensions:

8 framed panels – 26" w x 50" h



St. Louis County Historical Society

506 West Michigan Street, Duluth, MN 55802

218.733.7507

Traveling Exhibit Program Reservation/Agreement Form

Contact Person

Title

Organization

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email Address

Title of Exhibit(s) Desired: _____

Dates for Exhibition:

Begin: _____

Expected Return: _____

Traveling Exhibit Loan Agreement

1. The Society must receive the following at least one week prior to pick-up:
 - a. A check for the \$75.00 handling fee
 - b. Signed statement with proof of insurance coverage for the exhibit during both the loan timeframe and during transit to and from the SLCHS offices.
 - c. Signed statement describing security measures, provided by the borrower, for the exhibit while it is on loan.
 - d. Statement describing who will have access to the exhibit.
2. The borrower agrees to use a vehicle with an enclosed storage area for transport of Society exhibit(s). Examples of acceptable vehicles include vans, cars, and extended-cab pickup trucks of sufficient size to transport the exhibit(s) in a safe and clean manner. The borrower will pick up and return the exhibit(s) from the Society's main office on the main floor of the Depot.
3. The Society will help package the exhibit(s) for transport. The borrower will provide additional packing materials as may be necessary to ensure safe transport of the exhibit(s) within their vehicle.
4. All publicity for the exhibit must credit the St. Louis County Historical Society as the owner.
5. A Society staff member will conduct a "Condition of the Exhibit" review prior to the loan and again within three business days of the exhibit return. Borrowers are encouraged to take photos of the exhibit upon receipt for their records.
6. Costs for the repair or replacement of exhibit components, due to damage incurred during the loan period or during transit, shall be reimbursed to SLCHS by the borrower.

EXHIBIT REQUEST

SLCHS representative: _____

Title: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

CONDITION OF EXHIBIT

Exhibit Materials: _____

Please note any relevant information about the condition of the exhibit (scratches, dents, breaks, tears, missing pieces). Exhibits must be in good/excellent condition before being loaned.

Borrower representative: _____

Title: _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____

EXHIBIT RETURN

Date: _____

SLCHS representative: _____

Borrower representative: _____

CONDITION OF EXHIBIT

Exhibit Materials: _____

Please note any relevant information about the condition of the exhibit (scratches, dents, breaks, tears, missing pieces).

Traveling Exhibits Program Acknowledgements

The St. Louis County Historical Society's Traveling Exhibit Program was made possible through the generous support of the following organizations and individuals:

- ◆ St. Louis County
- ◆ The Depot Foundation
- ◆ Minnesota Historical Society
- ◆ Individual donors, foundations, and contributors
- ◆ Erie Mining History Project Team Members
- ◆ Members of the St. Louis County Historical Society

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