

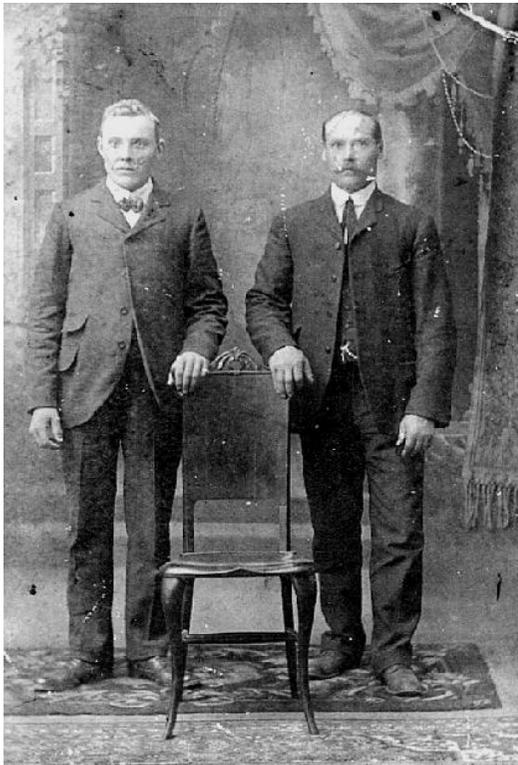
The fate of certain Emigrants in Calumet Copper Country (1878-) 1904-1962

By **Sture Torikka**

This is a short story about a couple of Nuottioranta inhabitants who came to live in the Red

Jacket village, Calumet, Houghton County, Michigan, USA. The studio picture should have been taken around

1906 to 1908. To the left we see the farmers son **Heikki Torikka** (1882-1954) and to the right his uncle **Aapo** or **Abraham Torikka** (1858-1922).



Two Torikka immigrants in Calumet around 1906

Aapo Torikka had in 1904 left his wife and several small children in the old croft at the Metsävainio farm land in Nuottioranta village to seek fortune in the mining areas of northern Michigan. That was where most of the emigrants from the Tornio River Valley appeared first to go. Mine works were certainly tough and really hard work for stable Tornedalians and accidents were frequent, but they gave cash salary directly felt in the wallet.

There were plenty of, among other Poles and "Finns" (where the Swedish Finnish talking Tornedalians grossly used to be included) and perhaps precisely because of their diversity in these mining areas, so it appears as if these ethnic groups had the slightly worse jobs. Not always, but in many cases. It was also stated that their "skills" was very limited. At least if we talk about work in the mines. Abraham worked to and from as a "*trammer*" for the company Calumet & Hecla Copper Mine. It meant that he was the first who went down in the newly exploded mining assets to stay up rock walls after the explosion smoke had gone away. It was not too unusual that the rock walls collapsed, and it was often this profession who first were killed.

Abraham Torikka stayed there for good - he never managed to get home again that the original idea certainly was - and drowned in the pond, which was near his residence. At his immigration in 1904 he lived some years in a sort of "work hotel" at 715 Water Works Street in Calumet. That was where his son **Hjalmar** (Jalmer) and nephew **Heikki** (Henry) **Torikka** arrived in July 1905. They had travelled by ship *S/S Ivernia* from Liverpool to Boston. How the first took themselves from their homes in the Tornio River valley to England is yet unclear. But is possible that they did go to Norway, which was fairly common among Tornio River valley emigrants. Getting to either Gothenburg or southern Finland was nearly itself almost "an emigration trip" so it served both time and money instead to go to northern Norway where they could jump on a ship bound for either England or directly to Canada (mostly).

We have not either found Abraham in any passenger records. Don't know what way he arrived.

Only sixteen year old **Hjalmar Torikka** and his seven year older cousin **Heikki Torikka** also came to Calumet for mining work. Hjalmar (born 1889) disappeared from the place after a few years, yes, he simply disappeared for good. The end of the embryo European track we have for him is from St. Louis, Minnesota, when he was in 1911 applying for U.S. citizenship, and from Butte, Montana, 1917, when he was drafted for WWI. Since then he is totally gone. Family tradition says he should have been heading for Canada and gold washing. He probably disappeared in any waters there, perhaps?

After a few years in Calumet **Heikki Torikka** met his future wife **Kaisa Priita Liinanki** (1881-1954) from Meltosjärvi, Ylitornio, who also had emigrated 1902 or 1903 and arrived at Calumet. Now they exclusively were called by *Henry and Kate*. They married in Calumet in February 1910 and decided after a few years to return home to the Tornio River Valley and Ylitornio. Around 1913, they are back in the homeland and build their own farm on Alahirstiö in Nuottioranta. From now on they used the surname Rantatorikka.

Henry Torikka contained in an undated list of miners from around 1910.

In December 1905 even Heikki's brother **Erkki** (Erik) **Torikka** (1880-1962) arrived to Ellis Island outside New York. He travelled on the *S/S Etruria* from Liverpool and had 9.50 US Dollars in cash on him. He was also on his way to address 715 Water Street Work in Calumet, where the younger brother Henry was a resident. When Erkki subsequently arrived at Calumet at the end of December 1905 they were, therefore, four out of the Torikka family who lived in the very same building.

Erik Torikka remained in Calumet rest of his life. He married there in 1908 with **Alma Antinmaa** (1880-1938) from homelands Kaulinranta village and had four children. Alma had immigrated here in July 1906 with the *S/S Saxonja* from Liverpool to Boston. Erkki bought a Dodge of the late 1920s model, but he never learned to drive the same. He tested once but ended up down in a ditch (or if it was in a tree?), whereupon he never tried again. Son **Arthur Torikka** (1908-1968) took care of these adventures beyond.

For many years Alma held a public sauna at their yard for the Finns in the neighbourhood.

My fellow researcher **Steve Johnson**, now practically living in Calumet, took these two color photographs in 2007. One shows the address of 715 Water Works Street, where Abraham first lived in this "work hotel" for bachelors who were inclined to go down in the mines. The building is long gone. The second photo shows the Calumet Dam where he unfortunately drowned accidentally in July 1922. This was previously more a "puddle" and questioned how anyone could drown there? But that happened in all cases. There were in those days a pedestrian bridge over the pond, sometimes termed Water Work bridge. There somewhere Abraham Torikka met his final fate.

The pond is now called Calumet Lake.

We find **Abraham Torikka** in the 1920 census. He was then a boarder on Pine Street in the Red Jacket area between the Yellow Jacket and Blue Jacket in the northern parts of Calumet, at a Finn family with an unclear surname; Edward, his wife Tilda and an adoptive son Henry. Their last name is difficult to interpret, may have been Töyrä? Someone who knows this family? Were they Tornedalians, or were they elsewhere from Finland?

Furthermore, Abraham Torikka also had a daughter **Sofia** (Sophia) **Torikka** (born December 1885), who alone had made her way off across the Atlantic already in 1901. She was then only 15 years of age. She also landed in Calumet where in 1907 she married **August Wuokila** (1880-1955), whose father **Matti** (Matt) **Wuokila** (ca 1856-1910) came from the Kemi area. August's stepmother was **Amalia** (Amelia/Emilia) **Ylihirstiö** (1868-1957) from Nuottioranta, Sofia's own maternal aunt. Amalia had emigrated in 1887.

Sofia and August had a son **Herbert** who died first day of life on October 21, 1907, since no additional children. They moved to Detroit, and divorced with 1918. Thereafter, even Sofia disappeared from the Chronicle.

Amalia Ylihirstiös sister, **Maria Ylihirstiö** (1861-1946) emigrated from Nuottioranta to Calumet already in 1878. She married **Salomon** (Solomon) **Rautio** or **Raudio** (1847-1924) from Swedish Kukkola the following year and had lots of children.

The sisters Maria and Amalia Ylihirstiö was also maternal aunts to the brothers Erkki and Heikki Torikka and also to their cousin Hjalmar Torikka. And so consequently, sister-in-laws of Abraham Torikka.

Calumet/Laurium Area

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127

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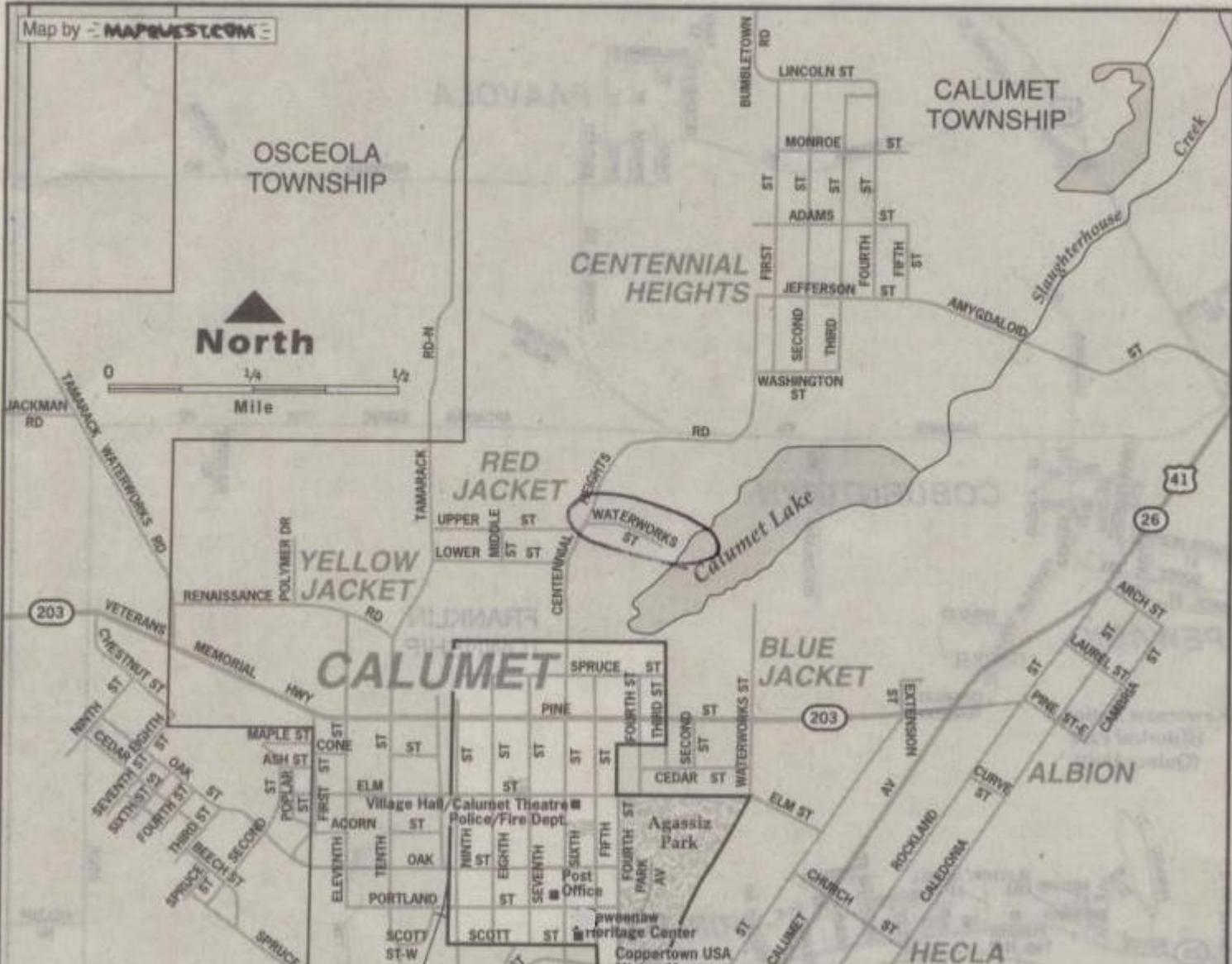
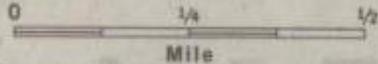
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3

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Map by MAPQUEST.COM

North



Calumet & Laurium 2004 (local phone book)



Calumet Dam 2007, where Abraham Torikka met his creator (Photo: Steve Johnson)



Calumet Pond or Dam around 1900 with the Waterwork Bridge.

REGISTRATION CARD

No. 8421

1 Name in full *Jalmer Torikka* Age *27*

2 Residence *140 E. Broadway Butte Mont.*

3 Date of birth *Jan'y 19th 1890*

4 How you (1) *Married* (2) *Never* (3) *Widowed* (4) *Divorced*

5 Where born *Therm's Island Russia*

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen of?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Miner*

8 By whom employed? *Not for me but mining*

9 Where employed? *Butte mine & mine*

10 How long a father, mother, wife, child under 17, or a next of kin under 17, wholly dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Father & mother*

11 Married or single? *Single* Race? *White*

12 Do you have any other names? *None*

I certify that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

68 *Jalmer Torikka*

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 T.A. number or other (specify which)? *None* State number or name (which)? *None*

2 Color of eyes? *Blue* Color of hair? *Light* Hair? *None*

3 Has person had any leg, hand, foot or body scars or so to be otherwise described (specify)? *No*

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Witness *J. J. J. J. J.*

City or County *Butte* State *Mont.* Date of issue *Jan'y 19 1917*

A TRUE COPY

Chas. J. J.

MEMBER OF REGISTRATION BOARD
CITY OF BUTTE, MONTANA

Jalmer Torikka Draft Card WW1, Butte, Montana, 1917



Priita (Kate) and Heikki (Henry) Rantatorikka, Calumet, 1910

Last name	First name	C&H no	began work	position	AFE/WFM	Birth date	Birth place	migration date
Torikka	Henry	12834	9-21-1905	Calumet barn		//1883	Aletorneo, Finland	7//1905

Calumet & Hecla Personnel

Calumet & Hecla Personnel list around 1910; Henry Torikka employed 21 September 1905

K6

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States
 Officer of any vessel

1-1118

GM

S. S. **IVERNIA.**

sailing from

1 No. on List.	2 NAME IN FULL	3 Age.		4 Sex.	5 Married or Single.	6 Calling or Occupation.	7 Able to—		8 Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	9 * Race or P
		Yrs.	Mos.				Read.	Write.		
50	<i>J. Jansson</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>Servant</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Swedish</i>

117-15135 10/11/35

6 ²²	X Savitruja,	Charles	20	1 m	S	✓			Finland	Finnish
7 ²³	X Carlsson,	Carl J. A.	19	1 m	S	✓			Sweden	Swedish
8 ²⁴	X Torikka,	Henry	22	1 m	S	✓			Finland	Finnish
9 ²⁵	X Haaroja,	Johann	24	1 m	S	✓	14X 2101	4H/36		
70 ²⁶	X Torikka,	Hjalmar	17	1 m	S	✓			No	

S/S Ivernia Liverpool-Boston June 1905. Heikki Torikka and Hjalmar Torikka aboard



S/S Ivernia, Liverpool harbor

42
31
580

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE

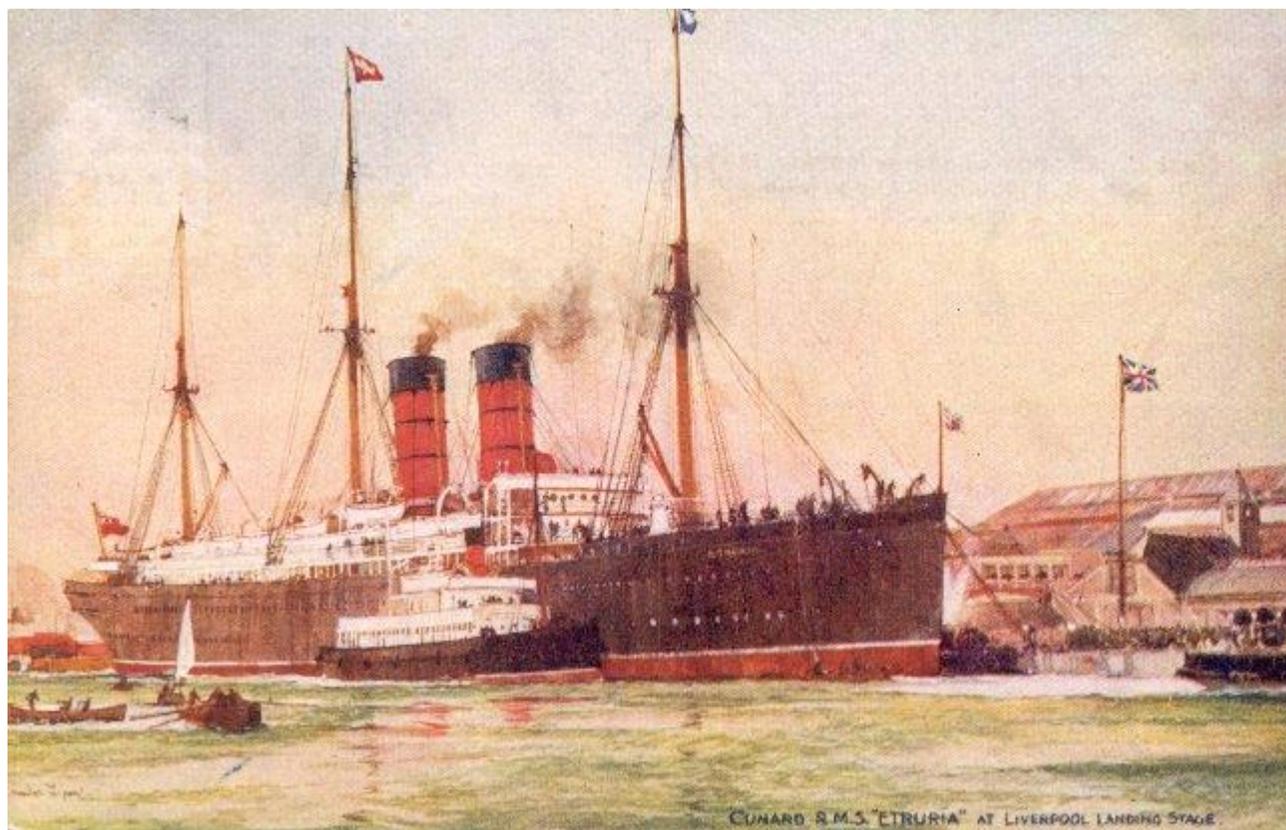
Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress, approved August 3, 1913, and amended, which require every master, commander, or other officer of any vessel having such passengers on board to file with the collector of customs a list of such passengers.

31

S. S. ETRURIA sailing from LIVERPOOL DEC

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
No. on List.	NAME IN FULL	Age		Married or Single.	Calling or Occupation.	Able to—		Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	* Race or People.	Last Residence. (Last permanent residence, Country and City or Town.)	Final Destination. (State, City, or Town.)
		Yrs.	Mos.			Sex.	Read.				
21942	Piortatrom, Johan O.	26		✓ m.	✓	✓	✓	Swedish	Scand.	Afornkalis N. Y.	Velva N.D.
	Admitted P. Johan	20		✓ m.				"	"	S. Buterwils Minn.	Kaling, Minn.
40	31 Caspersen, Nell	19		✓ f.				"	"	Kao, N.Y.	Greely, Colo.
39	4 Anderson, Emil	18		✓ m.				"	"	Njuitanger, N.Y.	Spokane, Wash.
6	5 Ahn, Nell A.	20		✓ m.				"	"	Frederick, Md.	Lowell, Mass.
7	6 Johnson, Helge J.	20		✓ m.				"	"	Tjelmoo, N.Y.	Milwaukee, Wis.
21936	7 Anderson, Jenny H.	21		✓ f.	Servant			"	"	S. Rensselaer, N.Y.	Stromsburg, Mo.
21046	8 Torikalo, Erik	25		✓ m.	laborer			Finland	Finland	Ylitorkka, Finland	Kalamit, Wash. D.C.

S/S Etruria Liverpool-New York December 1905. Erik Torikka aboard



S/S Etruria, Liverpool harbor

NO. 6447

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of Commerce and Labor
BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
DIVISION OF NATURALIZATION

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Minnesota }
County of St. Louis } ss: In the _____ District Court
of St. Louis County, Minnesota.

I, Njalmar Torikka, aged 20 years,
occupation Labourer, do declare on oath that my personal

description is: Color white, complexion light, height 5 feet 5 inches,
weight 150 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes grey
other visible distinctive marks lower lip cut near center

; I was born in Alkula Torio Chen
Laavi, Finland on the 1st day of August, anno

