

## Toivola

Times were tense in the Copper Country in 1893. Many of the men were unemployed, and even those who were employed, if they were family men, were hard-pressed to make a livelihood, for wages were low. For a workday beginning at 7 A.M. and ending at 6 P.M. a laborer received only \$1.45. The Quincy Mining Company paid \$49.60 per month, and Calumet and Hecla a little more. Many Finns, among them Daniel Eevonen, made plans to move elsewhere. Eevonen had heard that government homestead land was available about thirty miles west of Houghton along the road to Ontonagon, and he interested others in the matter.

Deep into the forest they went to seek home sites and, in the fall of 1893, Daniel Eevonen, John Aho, Elias Johnson, and Albert Laurila received their homestead papers. The first building completed was Eevonen's sauna, which served temporarily as a dwelling. John Aho and Matti Perala built a log cabin of huge round logs. One November evening when wet snow began to fall, the men took pity on a horse for which there was as yet no shelter, and brought it into the cabin. During the night the horse got loose, knocked over the stove, and otherwise, too, made the night "historic," as Aho later recalled.