

members were laborers from the Toivola and Winona areas. The purpose of the alliance was to combat unemployment and to assist those in need. Representatives were sent to state and Upper Peninsula meetings of the unemployed held at Lansing, Escanaba, and Bessemer. The association stopped functioning because of internal dissension and because of the lessening of unemployment due to the increase in the production of war equipment and supplies. World War II also had another effect on life in Toivola. Seventy-six young men and women from Toivola homes served on the battlefronts of the war. Two of them died serving their country. On July 4, 1946, a memorial tablet honoring the veterans of the war was unveiled at Toivola beside the main highway.<sup>11</sup>

A few miles west of Toivola there is an indentation in the Lake Superior shoreline which has been called Misery Bay from very early times, apparently memorializing the sufferings endured by early white visitors to these regions. In the language of the older generation of Finns it is "Misuri Pei," and the lands along its shores were known to them as a good hunting area. Near the mouth of the Misery River is beautiful Agate Beach, where the people of Toivola have built a large, useful hall for summer activities. In July 1964 the seventieth anniversary celebration of Toivola and the annual meeting of the Michigan Finnish Historical Society had a combined festival there. People from as far away as Wisconsin and Minnesota were in attendance.

Mentioned earlier were Elias Johnson from Kuusjärvi and his wife, Anna Halsten, from Alajärvi, two of the first Finns to settle in Toivola. Their daughter Laura was the first child born in Toivola. Their third daughter was married to Walter H. Salmi. They were for many years the leading citizens of the community.

Other Finns who arrived before 1902 were Matti and Simon Eevonen, Daniel Lamberg, Samuel Suksi, Esais Trasti, Richard Jurmu, Emil Rahko, Erik Heikkinen, John Kallioinen, August Alaniva, William Rauvala, Benjamin Naasko, Anselm and Eino Wiideman, Sam and William Mattila, Matti Perala, August Kemppainen, John Kujala, Andrew Lindgren, Paavo and Daniel Marsi, Heikki Pohjola, John Maki, Erik Wiitala, and Mike Taskila.

In 1940 there were seventy dairy farms in Toivola, but the number had fallen to seven by 1961. This development is typical of many Finnish farming areas, from which young people have gone to big cities to seek employment in factories.