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Retrospection & Respect: The 1913-1914
Mining/Labor Strike Symposium of 2014

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Apr 12th, 12:45 PM - 1:15 PM

Respectful Digging at Italian Hall

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Scarlett, Timothy, "Respectful Digging at Italian Hall" (2014). *Retrospection & Respect: The 1913-1914 Mining/Labor Strike Symposium of 2014*. 36.
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Respectful Digging at Italian Hall

In 2013, student and volunteer archaeologists conducted an assessment of the three village lots that comprise the Italian Hall Memorial Site in Calumet, Michigan. The National Park Service needed to know if significant and intact archaeological features remained beneath the modern ground surface so staff could plan for landscape improvements for the centennial celebration of the Italian Hall Disaster. The survey included extensive background research on the lots, with remote sensing surveys and limited excavation. Dr. Scarlett will discuss the team's discoveries and ongoing analysis of the historical research, with particular attention to how these sites could contribute to a growing body of scholarship on mining communities, like the Comstock, Skagway, and Virginia City Historic Districts. Given the overwhelming social significance of the Italian Hall site in the heritage of Calumet and the Copper County, he urges all parties to adopt a strategy of community-based, public archaeology that entangles scientific research and historical discovery into a 4D Public Art event- a potentially *transformative* experience for the community, outside visitors, and scholars alike.