



Courtesy photo

Central Mine Church has retained its features through the years, as shown in this undated photograph.

Church/Reunion this Saturday

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lamp chandeliers and long-handled wooden boxes used to collect the offertory;

- the original bell, which came to the church from the old Cliff Mine School, was moved from the church in 1898 to the Mohawk Methodist Church, later being replaced by another bell from the Phoenix School in 1968;

- in addition to religious functions, the church provided a circulating library for all the people, a Fourth of July picnic from sunup to sundown and a Christmas party in which all children from Central Mine got at least one gift.

Brooks said the annual Central Mine reunion is an appropriate occasion for anyone interested in the town's history or area history in general to gather.

"It kind of pays a tribute to the old people, the immigrants who came into this country, who left their homes and came into the Copper Country to work the mines," he said.

And there were a lot of people living in Central at its peak to whom folks today may pay tribute. Brooks estimates the population hovered about 1,200, most of whom hailed from Cornwall, which Cornish folks call Kernewek.

"As the mines in Cornwall began to wane, workers looked elsewhere for places to ply

Church facts

- Miners built Central Church in 1868.
- Cost: \$2,000
- Architecture: Cornish
- Building features kerosene lamp chandeliers, long-handled collection boxes, district bell tower
- First reunion took place July 21, 1907

their trade and the Central mine welcomed them with open arms," he wrote.

"The Cornish miner had no peer," Brooks continued. "By 1853 the Lake Superior copper mines were very active and the arriving Cornishmen were welcomed for their intimate knowledge of all facets of underground mining."

Nowadays, the town consists of about a dozen standing houses, a former butcher shop and several foundations of old buildings.

The Keweenaw County Historical Society owns the eight of the structures; a private citizen owns three; and the church is owned by the special church group to which Brooks belongs.

Incidentally, the historical society, which also owns a blacksmith shop and church in Phoenix, is playing host to another celebration on Sunday, this one the 150th anniversary for the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse.

After Sunday's services in

Central, however, the Kernewek society will serve up traditional Cornish foods such as English tea, saffron buns and clotted cream.

Taken from the stamen of krusok plants, saffron is an expensive spice used in cooking, Medlyn said. He described the spice as having a yellowish color; his wife added that it has somewhat of a sharp, medicinal taste.

The clotted cream, used as a spread for the buns, has the consistency of butter but is sweet, Medlyn added.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Central Mine reunion. To get to Central, drive north on U.S. 41 about 25 miles north of Calumet. Watch for the Central sign on the left.

The after-service event will take place in house 61, the second house on the right when driving up the hill into Central.