

Duluth experienced a large immigrant influx during the early twentieth century and the city became home to one of the largest **Finnish** communities in the world outside of **Finland**. For decades, a Finnish-language daily newspaper, taking the namesake of the old Grand Duchy of Finland's pro-independence leftist paper, *Päivälehti*, was published in the city. The **Finnish IWW** community published a widely read labor newspaper **Industrialisti**.

From 1907 to 1941, the Finnish Socialist Federation and then the IWW operated **Work People's College**, an educational institution that taught classes from a working class, socialist perspective. Duluth was also settled by immigrants from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Ireland, England, Italy, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine, Romania and Russia.

In September 1918, a group calling itself the Knights of Liberty dragged Finnish immigrant Ollie Kinkkonen from his boarding house, tarred and feathered him and lynched him. Kinkkonen did not want to fight in **World War I** and planned to return to Finland. His body was found two weeks later hanging in a tree in Duluth's Lester Park.

Another lynching in Duluth occurred on June 15, 1920 when three black male circus workers were attacked by a mob and hanged after the alleged rape of a teenage girl. The **Duluth lynchings** took place on First Street and Second Avenue East, where today three 7-foot (2.1 m)-tall bronze statues of the men who were killed have been erected as a memorial.

In 1918, the **Cloquet Fire** (named for the nearby town of **Cloquet**) burned across Carlton and Southern Saint Louis Counties destroying dozens of communities in the Duluth area. The fire was the worst natural disaster in Minnesota history in terms of the number of lives lost in a single day. Many people perished on the rural roads surrounding the Duluth area, and historical accounts tell of victims dying while trying to outrun the fire. The **National Guard** unit based in Duluth was mobilized in a heroic effort to battle the fire and assist victims, but the troops were overwhelmed by the enormity of the fire. In the aftermath of the fire, tens of thousands of people were injured or homeless; many of the refugees fled into the city for aid and shelter.

For the first half of the 20th century, the city was an industrial port boom town with multiple grain elevators, a cement plant, a nail mill, wire mills and the **Duluth Works** plant. In 1916, during **World War I**, a shipyard was constructed on the St. Louis River and a new neighborhood was formed around the operation, today known as Riverside. Similar industrial expansions took place during the **Second World War**, utilizing Duluth's large harbor and the area's vast resources for the war effort. The population of Duluth proper continued to grow after the war and peaked at 107,884 in 1960.