

MINING HISTORY NEWS

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MHA 2000 at Tonopah

We've all heard the story. Jim Butler's burro wandered off and an angered Jim picked up a rock to throw after the recalcitrant beast -- and found ore assaying hundreds of dollars per ton worth of silver. Nearly 100 years ago, Butler's discovery caused the Tonopah boom, the last great silver rush in the American West. The Mining History Association will hold its year 2000 conference in the Nevada town, help celebrate its centennial year, and join in the praise of burros.

Sally Zanjani and Don Hardesty with the help of the Central Nevada Historical Society are planning the details for the event scheduled for June 1-4, 2000. The conference will be held in the Tonopah Convention Center, while outdoor events will occur in the Tonopah Mining Park. Tentative tours include a walk through Goldfield, a 4x4 trek to ghost towns, and tours to Belmont and Round Mountain.

Like past MHA conferences, participants will stay at a number of hotels. The Visitors' Authority can provide a list of lodgings, rv parks, and burro camp sites (702-482-3558). Or call the Best Western Hi-Desert Inn 702-482-3511; the Jim Butler Motel 702-482-3577; the historic Mizpah Hotel and Casino 702-482-6202, which is dated but is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

So mark your calendar for four days of MHA events, papers, ideas, exchanges, and, maybe, burro races in the sage brush desert.

Top 10 Endangered Mining Sites

Last May we asked readers for their suggestions on creating a list of endangered historic mining sites. A committee was formed to review of the suggestions, which included sites already listed by state preservation organizations. Taking that lead, it was decided that, rather than create a new list, we would provide a list of sites already considered threatened by these organizations. A partial list follows:

Wisconsin

The Newkirk Mine Building, Argyle, WI. 1864 stone building built to house a Cornish pump adjacent the Newkirk Mine. Cornish vernacular architecture. Needs stabilization and reuse.

Minnesota

Mesabi Iron Company plant, Babbitt, MN. First sintered taconite ore concentrated here in 1922. New owner threatens demolition.

New Mexico

Real de Dolores, north of Albuquerque, NM. Site of 1820s gold rush and mining operations during Mexican and early American period. Threatened by potential subdivision development. Shakespeare Ghost Town, nr. Lordsburg, NM. Fire recently destroyed several buildings. Owner seeking funds to reconstruct.

Texas

Thurber, west of Dallas, TX. Coal mining town all but vanished. Preservation interest underway.

Colorado

Leadville Mining District. Concern

about misguided clean-up work, especially removal of historic structures and landscapes by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Colorado's Gaming Towns: Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. Large scale development of new casinos destroying character of the historic mining camps.

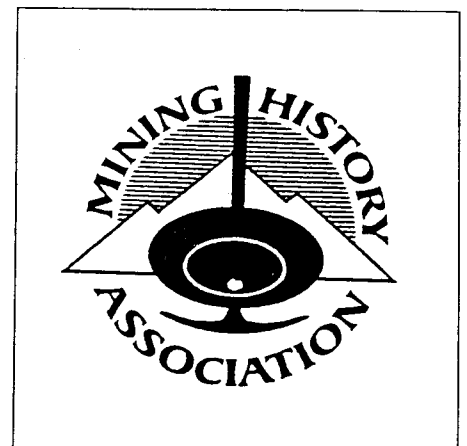
Red Mountain District, Ouray. Concern over inappropriate new development.

Colorado Fuel and Iron Plant, Pueblo. Concern about how best to preserve/reuse this massive industrial site.

Hanging Flume on the Dolores River, nr. Montrose. Flume built for placer mining operation now derelict and in need of stabilization.

Arizona

Bisbee Central School, Bisbee. 1905 school in the heart of the copper camp. Stabilization work underway to preserve the landmark.



The President's Page

The end of this millennium (or is it next year?) also brings to a close the year dedicated to Mining Archaeology and Historic Preservation. I hope, however, that the end of the year doesn't mean that we as an organization should forgo these issues. Preserving mining's past, I believe, should become a permanent goal of the Mining History Association. Indeed, the plan developed at the recent retreat of former MHA officers at the Ouray conference recognized such a goal.

How do we achieve the goal? One possibility is the formation of preservation committees or "working groups" that would allow all of us to work on what interests us most about mining's past. The multiple pathways to the past and the fact that not everybody is interested in the same pathway suggest at least four working groups within the MHA.

One of these is an Archival Group to work for the preservation of significant documents in mining history. Documents are usually much less value-laden than landscapes, sites, and monuments and, therefore, appeal to more people as the focus of preservation efforts.

Another is a Mining Landscapes Trust to work toward the acquisition and preservation of historically important examples of mining landscapes. Land trusts often effectively mobilize interested people. Lands acquired by the trust could be turned over to a federal or a state park system or other governmental agencies or non-governmental organizations for management. A good example of what might result is California's Malakoff Diggins State Park.

Yet another is a Mining Sites and Monuments Group to focus the efforts of historic preservationists interested in the architectural and archaeological expression of historical mining practices and miners. Gene Michael's work to preserve the Belmont (Nevada) mill, an excellent surviving example of the

Stetefeldt process, is a good example.

The last is a Living History Group to support efforts to gather oral histories of miners. The Oral History Program at the University of Nevada, Reno, for example, began such an effort a couple of years ago.

In addition to preservation committees or working groups, the MHA should begin thinking about ties to other organizations. Are we ready to establish more formal ties with our colleagues elsewhere? What about the role of local chapters? Perhaps we should consider the European model of local organizations dedicated to the preservation of industrial heritage found in many countries. Mining landscapes, sites, and monuments are globally distributed; we need more international cooperation. Consider the newly established European Federation of Associations of Industrial and Technical Heritage organized "to promote cooperation and networking between non-profit associations involved in the study of and research in the recording, conservation, development and management, and interpretation of industrial and technical heritage." (See [their website at http://www.conservare.be/vvia/Euro2002/E-FAITH.htm](http://www.conservare.be/vvia/Euro2002/E-FAITH.htm))

To what extent do we as an organization want to become more actively involved on a global scale in the preservation of mining heritage?

Don Hardesty
Reno, Nevada

Fifth International in Greece

This is a reminder that the Fifth International Mining History Congress to be held in Milos, Greece, September 12-17, 2000 has a call for papers out (due January 31). Registration materials can be found on the Web page for the conference: www.heliotopos.net, or write Terpsihoris 38, 175 62 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece. Jay Fell is chair of the program committee.

Membership Chair Needed

The MHA is in need of a membership chair. The chair is primarily responsible for maintaining the membership list, now on computer. If you are interested in volunteering for the position please send an e:mail to Secretary Bob Spude at Spudes@msn.com or write him care of the MHA, P. O. Box 150300, Denver, CO 80215.

Organization notes:

Information about the MHA can now be found on our home page established by Glenn Cook and now managed by Erik Nordberg at Michigan Tech. See <http://www.lib.mtu.edu/mha/mha.htm>

Thanks to our outgoing officers for their hard work over the years. Ed Hunter, an oft presenter at our conferences, and Lysa Wegman-French both retire from the board. Lysa continues as the MHA's Denver coordinator. Sally Zanjani, past president, also retires from the board, but continues active by organizing the MHA's conference 2000 in Tonopah, Nevada. Thanks too to the nominating committee for 1999, Duane Smith, Jim Edgerly, and Ruth Ann Gardner. Glenn Cook finds himself overcommitted and has decided to pass the pick to someone else as Membership Chair. Thank Glenn too for his five years of work in getting the membership lists up and running.

The Mining History Association Newsletter
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Denver, Colorado

Distributed to association members; membership is open to all interested in the history of mining. Dues are \$25 per year. Please send dues to MHA, Post Office Box 150300, Denver, Colorado 80215.

Submissions for publication in the newsletter are welcome. Write to Robert L. Spude, Editor.
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CALL FOR PAPERS

ELEVENTH MEETING
OF THE
MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

TONOPAH, NEVADA
JUNE 1-4, 2000

The program committee for the Tonopah meeting of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual papers or complete sessions (including chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions normally include three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no temporal or geographic limits.

Proposals should include an abstract (one paragraph) for each paper, plus biographical information about each presenter and session participant. Please send the written proposals to the program committee chair by January 15, 2000.

2000 Program Committee:

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Recent publications on the history of mining

The following list contains articles and dissertations that relate to the history of mining. It includes all types of mining in North America. Thanks to those who sent in suggestions for this installment. We welcome citations for inclusion in the next update.

Compiled by Lysa Wegman-French

Alanen, Arnold R. and Lynn Bjorkman. "Plats, Parks, Playgrounds, and Plants: Warren H. Manning's Landscape Designs for the Mining Districts of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, 1899-1932." *Industrial Archeology* 24, no. 1 (1998): 41-60.

Andreae, Christopher. "Industry, Dereliction, and Landscapes in Ontario." *Ontario History* 89, no. 2 (1997): 161-180. [Responses to abandoned industrial sites.]

Angus, Charlie. "Kings of the Shield." *Beaver: Exploring Canada's History* 79, no. 2 (April 1999): 30-36. Headframes of mining communities in Ontario and Quebec.

Arrington, Leonard J. and Edward Leo Lyman. "The Mormon Church and Nevada Gold Mines." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 41, no. 3 (Fall 1998): 191-205.

Bailey, James Paul. "'Standing Out for Their Rights': Industrial Strikes in Oklahoma in the 1930s." *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 76, no. 3 (1998): 298-317.

Barker-Browning, Marcia and Don Wellington. "The Rope Comes Uncoupled." *Northeastern Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 97, no. 3(1997): 134-140. [Mining accident in Elko County, 1871.]

Baumler, Ellen. "More Than the Glory: Preserving the Gold Rush and Its Outcome at Virginia City [Montana], Essay on the West." *Montana* 49, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 64-75.

Beauregard, Erving E. "L. Milton Ronsheim and Strip Coal Mining in Ohio." *Journal of Unconventional History* 9 no. 3 (1998): 16-33.

Bentley, A.C.W. "The Golden Skein: California's Gold-Rush Transportation Network." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 250-275.

Bloom, Joseph H. "Understanding the Molly Maguires." *American History* 34, no. 3 (August 1999): 54-64.

Bowen, Lynne. "Friendly Societies in Nanaimo: The British Tradition of Self-Help in a Canadian Coal-Mining Community." *BC Studies* no. 118 (1998): 67-92.

Buckley, Geoffrey. "Converting Minerals into Merchandise: Landownership and Environmental Alteration in the George's Creek Valley of Western Maryland, 1789-1842." *Historical Geography* 26 (1998): 151-175.

Burchett, Michael H. "Promise and Prejudice: Wise County, Virginia and the Great Migration, 1910-1920." *Journal of Negro History* 82, no. 3 (1997): 312-327.

Buzzell, Rolfe G. "Life in a Mining Camp: Flat, Alaska." *Alaska History* 12, no. 1 (1997): 32-43.

Cahill, Kevin J. "The U.S. Bank Panic of 1907 and the Mexican Depression of 1908-1909." *Historian* 60, no.4 (1998): 795-811. [Includes Mexican mining industry impacts.]

Chenoweth, William L. "History of Uranium Mining in the Morrison Formation." *Modern Geology* 23, no. 1 (1998): 427.

Clifford, Howard. "Ezra Meeker's Quest for Klondike Gold." *Columbia* 12 (Summer 1998): 24-29.

Cook, Samuel Robert. "Monarchs [Indians] and Mountaineers: A Comparative Study of Colonialism and Dependency in Southern Appalachia." Ph.D. diss., University of Arizona, 1997.

Coomes, Mary Laura. "From Pooyi to the New Almaden Mercury Mine: Cinnabar, Economics, and Culture in California to 1920." Ph.D.diss., University of Michigan, 1999.

Cornford, Daniel. "'We All Live More Like Brutes than Humans': Labor and Capital in the Gold Rush." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 78-104.

Danielson, Elena S. "The Cover." *Libraries & Culture* 33, no.2 (1998): 195-199. [Herbert Hoover's interest in mining history.]

Dasmann, Raymond F. "Environmental Changes before and after the Gold Rush." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 105-122.

Drake, Robert. "Dr. Francis N. Drake." *Northeastern Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 97, no. 2(1997): 75-92. [Mine speculator in Elko County gold rush.]

Dublin, Thomas. "Working-Class Families Respond to Industrial Decline: Migration from the Pennsylvania Anthracite Region since 1920." *International Labor and Working Class History*, 54 (fall 1998): 40-56.

English, Deric. "Mojave Mining District." *Collectors' Mining Review* no. 8 (December 1998): 3-6

Everett, George. "'The Gibraltar of Unionism': The Labor Heritage of Butte, Montana." *Labor's Heritage* 10, no. 1 (Summer 1998): 4-19.

Gavazzi, Italo. "American Flat: Stepchild of the Comstock Lode, Part I." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 41, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 92-101. [See also Robert E. Kendall.]

Hampshire, David. "Remembering Park City's Great Fire." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 66, no. 3(1998): 225-242.

Hannah, Leslie. "Survival and Size Mobility Among the World's Largest 100 Industrial Corporations, 1912-1995." *American Economic Review* 88, no. 2 (1998): 62-65. [Includes mining companies.]

Hansel, C. Z. "History and Evolution of Minelighting Technology." Technology and the Mine Problem Symposium Nov. 1996, Monterey, CA, pp. 7-129-7-136. NTIS, AD A 1997; AD-A327338.

Hardcastle, John Andrew. "'Halfway Between Nobody Knows Where and Somebody's Starting Point': A History of the West End of Montrose County, Colorado." M.A. thesis, Utah State University, 1998. [Impact of radium, vanadium, and uranium mining and milling.]

Harner, John. "Dependency and Development in the Copper Mining Region of Sonora, Mexico." *CLAG Yearbook*, v. 24 (1998): p. 17-30.

Hinde, John R. "'Stout Ladies and Amazons': Women in the British Columbia Coal-Mining Community of Ladysmith, 1912-14." *BC Studies* no. 114 (1997): 33-57.

Horton, Robert C. "History of the Gatchell gold mine." *Mining Engineering* 51, no. 7 (1999) 50.

- Jeinek, Lawrence James. "'Property of Every Kind': Ranching and Farming during the Gold-Rush Era." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 233-249.
- Jepson, Mark Charles. "Entrepreneurs or Corporations: Divergent Patterns of Class Formation in the Early Anthracite Mining Trade, 1815-1860." Ph.D. diss. University of California, Los Angeles, 1998.
- Jung, Maureen A. "Capitalism Comes to the Diggings: From Gold-Rush Adventure to Corporate Enterprise." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 52-77.
- Kadlec, David. "X-Ray Testimonials in Muriel Rukeyser." *Modernism/Modernity* 5, no. 1 (1998): 23-47. [African American miners' deaths in silica mining at Gauley Bridge.]
- Keller, Charles L. "James T. Monk: The Snow King of the Wasatch." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 66, no. 2 (1998): 139-158.
- Kendall, Robert E. "American Flat: Stepchild of the Comstock Lode, Part II." *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 41, no. 2 (Summer 1998): 102-114. [See also Italo Gavazzi.]
- Kirk, Anthony. "Seeing the Elephant." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 174-184.
- LeCain, Timothy J. "Moving Mountains: Technology and the Environment in Western Copper Mining." Ph.D. diss., University of Delaware, 1998.
- Limbaugh, Ronald H. "Making Old Tools Work Better: Pragmatic Adaptation and Innovation in Gold-Rush Technology." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 24-51.
- Lowe, James A. "The Bridger Trail: An Alternative Route to the Gold Fields of Montana Territory in 1864." *Annals of Wyoming* 70, no. 2 (1998): 12-23.
- Lukas, Paul. "Going Underground." *Money* 28, no.7 (July 1999): 151-154. [North Carolina gold rush 50 years before 1849 California rush.]
- McDonough, Judith. "Worker Solidarity, Judicial Oppression, and Police Repression in the Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania Coal Miner's Strike, 1910-11." *Pennsylvania History* 64, no. 3 (1997): 384-406.
- Metz, Holly. "Milton Rogovin: Seeing the Forgotten Ones." *Labor History* 38, no. 4(1997): 508-524. [Photographer of coal miners.]
- Nash, Gerald D. "A Veritable Revolution: The Global Economic Significance of the California Gold Rush." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 276-292.
- Peterson, Michael. "Josiah White's Gravity Railway." *American Heritage of Invention & Technology* 12, no. 4 (1997): 48-55. [Inventor unlocks secret of anthracite combustion and develops coal transport system that was prototype for roller coaster.]
- Pisani, Donald J. "'I am Resolved not to Interfere, But Permit All to Work Freely': The Gold Rush and American Resource Law." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 123-148.
- Ricketts, Elizabeth. "The Struggle for Civil Liberties and Unionization in the Coal Fields: The Free Speech Case of Vintondale, Pennsylvania, 1922." *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 122, no. 4 (1998): 319-352.
- Ridge, Martin. "Disorder, Crime, and Punishment in the California Gold Rush." *Montana* 49, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 12-27.
- Ridge, Martin. "The Legacy of the Gold Rush: An Afterword." *Montana*: 49, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 58-63.
- Rohrbough, Malcolm J. "'When a Person Gits to California It is Hard to Say or Tell When He Gets Away': Why the Forty-Niners Were Reluctant to Come Home to the Families They Loved." *Montana* 49, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 28-41.
- Ross, Drew. "'I Have Struck It Rich at Last': Charles Goodman, Traveling Photographer." *Utah Historical Quarterly* 66, no. 1 (1998): 65-83.
- Sabron, Mike and Thomas Dublin. "When the Mines Closed: One Worker's Oral History." *Labor's Heritage* 9, no. 4 (1998): 46-59. [Coal mining in northeast Pennsylvania, 1930s-70s.]
- Schweikart, Larry and Lynne Pierson Doti. "From Hard Money to Branch Banking: California Banking in the Gold-Rush Economy." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 209-232.
- Seager, Allen and Perry, Adele. "Mining the Connections: Class, Ethnicity, and Gender in Nanaimo, British Columbia, 1891." *Social History [Canada]* 30, no. 59(1997): 55-76.
- Seyl, Susan. "Images through Time: The OHS Photographic Archives." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 99, no. 2 (1998): 164-188.
- Sherwood, Morgan. "A North Pacific Bubble, 1902-1907." *Alaska History* 12, no. 1 (1997): 18-31. [Career of huckster Henry Derr Reynolds.]
- Smith, Duane. "Mother Lode for the West: California Mining Men and Methods." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 149-173.
- Sorgenfrei, Robert. "A Fortune Awaits Enterprise Here: The Best Mining Expedition to the Grand Canyon in 1891." *Journal of the Southwest* 40, no. 4 (Winter 1998): 437-462.
- St. Clair, David J. "The Gold Rush and the Beginnings of California Industry." *California History* 77, no. 4 (Winter 1998/99): 185-208.
- Steven, Peter. "In the Footsteps of the Workers." *Beaver [Canada]* 77, no. 2 (1997): 20-23. [Walking tours of Canadian industrial sites.]
- Stevens, Robert L. and Jared A. Fogel. "From mountain men to miners." *Social Education* 63, no. 5 (September 1999): 262-268. [Appalachia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.]
- Thomas, Jerry Bruce. "'Please Tell the President . . . Only an Absolute Dictatorship Will Save Us': Lorena Hickok Reports on the Great Depression in West Virginia, August 1933." *West Virginia History* 57 (1998): 135-161.
- Twitty, Eric. "Reading the Ruins: A Field Guide for Interpreting the Remains of Western Hardrock Mines." M. A. thesis, University of Colorado-Denver, 1999.
- West, Elliot. "Golden Dreams: Colorado, California, and the Reimagining of America." *Montana* 49, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 2-11.
- Yancey, John. "The Last Family in Cortez." *Northeastern Nevada Historical Society Quarterly* 98, no. 2 (1998): 29-44. [Former silver and gold mining community.]
- Zhai, Liping. "No Need to Rush: The Chinese, Placer Mining, and the Western Environment." *Montana* 49, no. 3 (Autumn 1999): 42-57.

Book Notes: Carolina, California & Klondike

The gold rushes have always captured a popular audience and, in this year of centennials, publishers have met the demands of readers. The first gold discovery, that of the Reed nugget in North Carolina in 1799, spawned the southern gold rush. Richard F. Knapp and Brent D. Glass in *Gold Mining in North Carolina, a Bicentennial History* detail the evolution and impact of mining, especially as portrayed by the Reed Mine, now a state historic park.

German immigrant John Reed (Johannes Ried), a farmer in the uplands, as legends states, used the nugget found by his son in 1799 as a door stop until a travelling jeweler told him of its value. The result was a scramble for gold mines during the antebellum period. Knapp and Glass describe both the mine and the period in chapters, but the majority of the focus is on the Gold Hill district of southwest North Carolina, one of the richest gold regions of the south and a respectable producer anywhere. The book is well researched and written, a splendid contribution to this little known period and place in gold rush history. The book is available from Historical Publications, Division of Archives and History, N. C. Department of Cultural Resources, 4622 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4622 for \$12 plus \$3 shipping.

In contrast to the scant works on the Southern gold rush is the flood of new works on the California rush of '49. J. S. Holliday, best known for his *The World Rushed In* (1981), has authored *Rush for Riches, Gold Fever and the Making of California*. The work was prepared in collaboration with the Oakland Museum of California, which showcased the sesquicentennial of the gold rush in lectures and exhibits. Much of the 250 plus illustrations, many in color, are a positive result of their work and make this an exceptional collection of gold rush era graphics. Holliday provides a documented, overarching

narrative starting with Native and Hispanic California, the discovery and worldwide rush, through the laissez faire world of 19th-century mining, until the 1884 decree halting hydraulic mining on the Sacramento River tributaries. The large-format book was co-published by the museum and the University of California Press, Berkeley in 1999. \$29.95 paper.

The Huntington Library has similarly sponsored lectures and exhibits and has issued a study of the gold rush that includes 150 images, maps, and other graphics (many in color) from its collections. Written by historian Peter Blodgett, *Land of Golden Dreams, California in the Gold Rush Decade, 1848-1858* is more focused and portrays more of the actual miner and mining camp life. The well-written, large-format book is available from the Huntington Library Press, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA 91108 for \$20.95, or paper \$14.95.

Malcolm Rohrbough's *Days of Gold, the California Gold Rush and the American Nation* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997) was recently reprinted in paper back. Reviewer Gene Gressley wrote here last fall: "Occasionally, all too occasionally, a book appears that demands applause for its depth of research, its felicity of style and its power of analysis. Such an historiographical model is *Days of Gold*."

Legion are the personal accounts of the California gold rush era. Doris Shaw Castro has edited the contemporary writings of a soldier-turned-miner in California during the discovery and early years. *James H. Carson's California, 1847-1853* provides insights into the mines at discovery, early in 1848 when he toured as part of his military duties, after 49 when he moved to the diggings, and up until his death in 1853. The compiler and editor has taken a light touch to this first hand account. Available from Vantage Press, 516 West 34th Street, New York, NY, 10001 for \$19.95.

The University of Oklahoma Press has published *Against the Vigilantes, the Recollections of Dutch Charley Duane*, edited by John Boessenecker. Irishman Duane's tale was first published in the San Francisco Examiner in 1881. His is a first hand account of the social and political world of gold rush California. He befriended political boss David C. Broderick and as a result served in a number of local law enforcement or fire company posts. He earned notoriety for opposing the vigilantes, the heart of these recollections. Boessenecker provides an excellent introduction and notes, correcting some of the flaws and biases inherent in the event and one of its main characters. Available for \$27.95 hardcover.

Two new books, one the journal of a 49er and the other a study of 49ers from one state, tell of the gold rush experiences of Tennesseans. *A Forty-niner from Tennessee, the Diary of Hugh Brown Heiskell*, edited by Edward M. Steel, is the journal and letters of one of the thousands of young men who went to California. Hugh followed the California trail and recounts camp life, people met and trials along the way. He was a perceptive observer of Native Americans. Editor Steel provides excellent notes and introduction as well as fills in the pre-gold rush life of the author. He concludes with Heiskell's death shortly after reaching California. The hardback is available from University of Tennessee Press for \$30.

Walter T. Durham has prepared the first study of 49ers from one state. In *Volunteer Forty-Niners, Tennesseans and the California Gold Rush* he examines who and why an agricultural people would leave the region for such an ordeal. He details the routes taken, mining, and the political impact of the group, including growing sectional tensions that led to California's admission as a free state. Durham uses little known or overlooked sources as well as much from contemporary Tennessee newspapers to give the familiar a refreshingly new point of view.

Book Notes (continued)

What was life like for the common people of gold rush era California? In answer to that question William Benemann compiled contemporary writings as *A Year of Mud and Gold, San Francisco in Letters and Diaries, 1849-1850*. The best way to enjoy the book is to dip into it and read the snippets -- about a jammed city of ruffians and gamblers, about gold piled high on card tables ready to be wagered, of sick friends, of sweet girls of sixteen playing and picking in fields of wild strawberries. The awe and wonder of the participants are captured in this delightful compilation, which includes introduction and notes by the editor, a librarian formerly at the Bancroft now at the Boalt Hall Law School Library. Available from the University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, \$29.95 hardback.

A complementary volume to the view of the common people is *Gold Rush, A Literary Exploration*. Editor Michael Kowalewski has compiled in one handy volume excerpts from major or best known writings of or about the California gold rush. Along with James Marshall and John Sutter, with Bret Harte, Mark Twain and Dame Shirley are later commentators such as Robert Frost, Frank Norris, and John Muir. The 477 page ensemble was supported by the California Council for the Humanities and published by Heyday Books, P. O. Box 9145, Berkeley, CA 94709 for the appropriately priced amount of \$18.48.

The California Historical Society as part of its California History Sesquicentennial Series has produced with the University of California Press (\$24.95) *A Golden State, Mining and Economic Development in Gold Rush California*, edited by James J. Rawls and Richard J. Orsi. The book contains a dozen essays including one by well-known Duane Smith (on the diffusion of the California experience throughout the West). Other essays cover banking,

labor, capitalization and corporate mining, law, transportation, and environment. Although the work has less on actual gold mining or technology than hoped, Ronald Limbaugh provides a good synthesis on technological innovation and adaptation.

Although, surprisingly, no one has reprinted such classic books as Rodman Paul's *California Gold* or John Caughey's *Gold is the Cornerstone*, the accounts of participants have been reprinted. Notable among them are Leroy and Ann Hafen's editing of 20 gold rush experiences, *Journals of Forty-Niners: Salt Lake to Los Angeles* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, \$15). Yale University Press has reprinted *Gold Seeker: Adventures of a Belgian Argonaut during the Gold Rush Years* by Jean-Nicolas Perlot, translated by Helen Harding Bretnor and Howard Lamar editor. Perlot's diary covers 1851-7 in the southern mines and Oregon.

The gold rushes of the Far North have their centennials underway, with Nome's in 2000. Although a good history of the Nome rush has yet to be published, the University of Alaska Press just issued the *Alaska-Klondike Diary of Elizabeth Robins, 1900*, edited by Victoria Joan Moessner and Joanne E. Gates. Actress Robins joined the rush to Nome in the summer of 1900 and kept this diary with an eye for future publication, which makes the diary read, in parts, like a Victorian novel. The book describes the camp, its politicians, corrupt and otherwise, family and friends, and a quick trip to Dawson and the Klondike. Though unpublished until now, Robins used the material for later novels and political activism. Appended to the diary are several Alaska articles Robins published after her 1901 return to the States. Available for \$22.95, paper.

The Alaska Geographic Society publishes a series of booklets about places and events in the Far North. Among its recent publications is *The Golden Gamble*, vol 24, #2, 1997, of the Alaska Geographic. Free-lance writer

Richard Emanuel provided the overview history for this well-illustrated 96 page book. Emanuel tells of the Klondike discovery, the rush of '98, the rise of Dawson, followed by Nome, Fairbanks and lesser camps such as Iditarod, and ends with an essay on Alaska's gold rush legacy. Available for \$19.95 from Alaska Geographic Society, 639 West International Airport Road, Unit 38, Anchorage, AK 99518. The society also published a recent review of the mining industry with some history in vol 22, number 3, 1995, *Rich Earth, Alaska's Mineral Industry*. Like all its volumes, this one includes exquisite color graphics of the Great Land, including miners, mining sites, and relics.

Inspired by his great uncle's memoir of the Klondike, Peter M. Rinaldo has written *The Great Reindeer Caper, the Missionary and the Miners* (DorPete Press, P. O. Box 238, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510, \$14.95). The book includes Peter Laird Trout's memoir, background on the rush, then the tale of missionary Sheldon Jackson, his Laplanders, and their reindeer and the adventure to bring meat on hoof to a believed-to-be-starving Klondike. Rinaldo shows that the efforts of the missionary and U. S. government proved useless since the miners had plenty of supplies. Rinaldo offers comments on the failed enterprise as exemplar of other twentieth century misguided government efforts.

Two recent books tell of the Klondike trail that started at Valdez, Alaska and ended, for most, in the glaciers of the Coast Range. Jim and Nancy Lethcoe, *Valdez Gold Rush Trails, 1898-99*, describes the ill-advised rush to the new town of Valdez and the attempts to build a trail to the interior. The army, finally, blazed a useable route. The Lethcoe's also provide an introduction to the reprint of Charles Margeson's 1899 *Experiences of Gold Hunters in Alaska*, also about the Valdez trail but by a participant. Both paperback books are available from Prince William Sound Books, P. O. Box 1313, Valdez, Alaska, 99686 \$15.95 and \$19.95 respectively.

Research Grant

Michigan Tech University Archives is offering research grants for the calendar year 2000. The grants are up to \$500 to help defray the cost of travel and per diem to use the collections. Friends of the Van Pelt Library support the grant. The collections focus on Michigan, industrial history, mining, immigration and ethnicity, Keweenaw Peninsula, transportation, and the environment. Applicants should contact University Archivist, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, J. Robert Van Pelt Library, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. Telephone 906-487-2505 or e:mail copper@mtu.edu Applications must be received by January 17 and travel completed by August 25.

Book Note

Richard H. Peterson's classic *The Bonanza Kings: the Social Origins and Business Behavior of Western Mining Entrepreneurs, 1870-1900* has gone out of print after 22 years. Only six copies remain in the author's possession, which he wishes to sell for \$20 each, including postage and handling. Send a check to him at 7956 Lake Adlon Dr, San Diego, CA 92119-3317. He also has copies of *Bonanza Rich*, the sequel on lifestyles, for \$15 each.

Collection Directory

The Central Nevada Historical Society of Tonopah has issued a directory to the collections, which relate primarily to Tonopah and surrounding, Nye County. For a copy write the society at P. O. Box 326, Tonopah, NV 89049 or call 775-482-9676.

MHA Loses a Friend

Michael Malone, president of Montana State University and recipient of the MHA's Rodman Paul award, died in Bozeman December 21. He had authored the classic *Battle for Butte, Mining and Politics on the Northern Frontier* (1981), as well as a Montana history, biography of rail baron James J. Hill, and co-authored a history of the twentieth century west. He received his Ph.D. from Washington State University and taught history for thirty years at MSU before becoming its tenth president. In 1996, he was awarded the Rodman Paul award at the annual MHA breakfast at the Western History conference Lincoln, Nebraska. All who knew Michael were impressed by his prodigious publication record as well as his willingness to help anyone interested in the history of his Montana.

Mining History Association

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