



Summer 2013

# *Mining History News*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

## **Reflecting on the Galena Meeting from Across the Atlantic**

Attendance at MHA conferences has long been a double indulgence for me. On the one hand, as a working academic, writing and teaching about mining history, I have enjoyed the enormous benefits from having panels of local experts organize lectures and field meetings that have greatly improved my grasp of the subject and introduced me to invaluable extended networks of fellow researchers. That's the reason that I always gave to my head of department when I asked for travel funds to attend the conferences. The other, even greater indulgence – which I can admit to now that I am retired – is that of being able to spend time simply enjoying the stunning scenery of the West. Perhaps it's a European/East Coast thing – being bitten by the bug of the Western fantasy, from dime novel to mid-twentieth century western movies – but the seduction of the open freedom of the western mountains and deserts is irresistible to those of us that come from tired and crowded urban environments. I do hope that the locals appreciate what they have.

Given these vices, a conference in Galena, Illinois might not, at first sight, seem to have been too attractive. How wrong. The backdrop of the mighty Mississippi more than compensated for missing mountains and served to demonstrate that there are always new passions to discover – note to self: "must explore other stunning parts of the US." More particularly, the conference program unwrapped the story of a region that was pivotal in the whole development of the "Mining West." It started here. From the earliest colonial settlement by the French, European

miners rushed into the area from the 1820s to make it a hive of activity and the principal source of minerals for the rapidly expanding U.S. economy. It was with the skills and experience honed in the lead mines of the tri-state area of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa that miners moved on to develop the copper deposits of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and later the early gold mines of California. Conference papers covered the story well and tracked the development of mining in the region into the later larger-scale exploitation of associated zinc deposits. Unfortunately, the small-scale shallow workings of the early years left few records and little has been written on the industry in its heyday, and this was one of the few conference venues that I have left without a suitcase half full of books. For those that haven't seen it, John Rowe's *The Hard Rock Men*, published forty years ago but now apparently out of print, makes a valuable additional contribution to other better known texts.<sup>1</sup>

The papers in the lecture room were admirably supported by the program of field visits and the well-illustrated field trip guide book was a "best yet" for any MHA conference. For me, driving through southern Wisconsin was "much like home" and little wonder that many of the early British immigrants felt at ease here – and in saying British, I do mean miners from all parts of the British Isles and not just Cornwall. The case for the presence of the latter is well made at Mineral Point, but the methods of lead mining, and particularly the British Hollow Smelter near

*"Reflecting on Galena..." (continued on page 2)*

## Reflecting on Galena...

(continued from page 1)

Potosi, clearly demonstrate the involvement of many others from the middle and northern lead districts of England.<sup>2</sup> Mark and Lynn Langenfeld are to be congratulated on organizing a superb conference and throwing enormous energy and enthusiasm into its conduct, right up to the last gasp of the post-conference tour on Sunday. Thank you also to the hundred or more members of the Association that attended the meeting, often a very long way from home, and their role in making it such a success.

Roger Burt  
Exeter, UK  
R.Burt@ex.ac.uk

1. John Rowe, *The Hard-Rock Men: Cornish Immigrants and the North American Frontier* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1974; reprint, New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1974). It might be interesting to note that Rowe produced another book, *Cornwall in the Age of the Industrial Revolution*, 2nd ed. (St. Austell, UK: Cornish Hillside Publications, 1993) which provides a lot of background on the socio-economic background of the miners that emigrated before the mid-19th century.
2. For background on the British Hollow smelt mill, see Mike Gill, *Swaledale: Its Mines and Smelt Mills*, 2nd ed. (Ashbourne: Landmark Publishing, 2004). For lead mining in the north of England, see Arthur Raistrick and Bernard Jennings, *A History of Lead Mining in the Pennines* (London: Longmans, 1965; reprint, Newcastle upon Tyne: Davis Books, 1983) and C.J. Hunt, *The Lead Miners of the Northern Pennines in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1970).

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### Transitions

**Victor Fogle (Springfield, OR)**  
May 2012

**Ed Hunter (Victor, CO)**  
July 2013

## Attention MHA Authors: Publicity Opportunity

Have you written a book on some aspect of mining history that you think your fellow members might find interesting? **The MHA Newsletter runs an annual column in the Fall issue with announcements of books on mining history written by our members** in the past year or two. These announcements supplement, but do not replace, our traditional list of publications and book reviews in the annual *Mining History Journal*, and serve as an additional way to bring your work to the attention of our membership.

### How to participate

Send the complete bibliographic information (author, title, publisher, publisher location, year, number of pages, binding, price, and ISBN) plus a 100-150 word summary of the book (like you would use for a dust jacket) to Eric Nystrom, Newsletter Editor, at [eric.nystrom@rit.edu](mailto:eric.nystrom@rit.edu). Works of popular history, academic studies, poetry, fiction, and art are all welcome, as long as they concern the broad themes of mining history of interest to our society. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to edit all content. Submissions will be accepted throughout the year and printed in the Fall newsletter, which appears in September. **Authors must be members of the MHA.**

Submissions for the upcoming Fall newsletter will be accepted until **September 15--** send your details right away!

## 2013 MHA Election Results

Terms begin June 2013

President: Roger Burt

Vice President/President Elect: Ed Raines

Council (2013-2016): Rudy Davison,  
Stephanie Saager-Bourret

Nominating Committee: Christopher  
Huggard

## Seeking 2013-2014 Nominees for Spence Book Award

The Clark C. Spence Award Committee of the Mining History Association is now accepting nominations for the best book published on Mining History during 2013-2014. The committee considers books that meet the documentation and narrative standards set by the works of Clark C. Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

To be considered, the book must focus on the history of a specific mining region, or a mining-related theme or topic, especially within the American West, or an individual or individuals prominent in the history of American mining. There are no temporal limits on subjects. The book must be published either in the year 2013 or 2014. A \$500 cash prize will be presented to the winning author or authors at the 2015 Mining History Association Annual Meeting.

Authors or publishers should send three copies of the nominated work to:

**David Wolff**  
MHA Spence Award  
301 Yellowstone Pl.  
Spearfish, SD 57783

Two books shared the award for the best book in mining history published during 2011-2012. Congratulations to Christopher J. Huggard and Terrence M. Humble for *Santa Rita Del Cobre: A Copper Mining Community in New Mexico* published by University Press of Colorado and to Richard E. Lingenfelter for his two volume *Bonanzas & Borrascas* set published by The Arthur H. Clark Co. Ronald M. James and Robert E. Stewart also received an award of special recognition for their book *The Gold Rush Letters of E. Allen Grosh & Hosea B. Grosh* published by University of Nevada Press.

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A compilation of 22 black-and-white images by late artist Cherry Hunter (after whom the MHA's Cherry Hunter Award is named) are featured in a new book, *Cherry's Art: Images of Mining History*. The book was compiled by Ed Hunter, finished shortly before his passing. A limited edition of 100 hardbound copies will be issued, with a softbound edition to follow. Proceeds benefit the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. To order, visit <http://victorcolorado.com/HunterBook.htm>

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Mining library for sale, contact Jim Lennox at [coppercliffmt@msn.com](mailto:coppercliffmt@msn.com)

## Cornish Mining Museum Honored

The tin concentration plant at the King Edward Mine Museum, located in Camborne, Cornwall, UK, was recently granted the prestigious Engineering Heritage Award by Britain's Institution of Mechanical Engineers. (The King Edward Mine is one of only two mining-related sites to have been given the award.) MHA members who attended the International Mining History Congress in Cornwall in 2009 may remember this excellent mining museum, which is part of the Cornish Mining World Heritage Site.

The King Edward Mine features a complete turn-of-the-century Cornish tin concentrating plant that has been restored to operating condition by volunteers. Built by the Camborne School of Mines as a teaching facility, the mill features some excellent operating examples of rare equipment, including a Frue vanner and a battery of "Californian" stamps.

The museum can be found online:  
<http://www.kingedwardmine.co.uk>

## Call for MHA Conference Sites, 2016 and Beyond!

Next year's conference is in Trinidad, Colorado, and in 2015 we will be in Virginia City, Nevada. We are looking for proposals for a conference site for 2016. Please consider hosting an MHA annual meeting in your favorite mining district. A helpful guide for preparing a meeting proposal is available. Proposals should be sent to Roger Burt, MHA President, at [R.Burt@ex.ac.uk](mailto:R.Burt@ex.ac.uk).

# Ed Hunter (1926-2013)

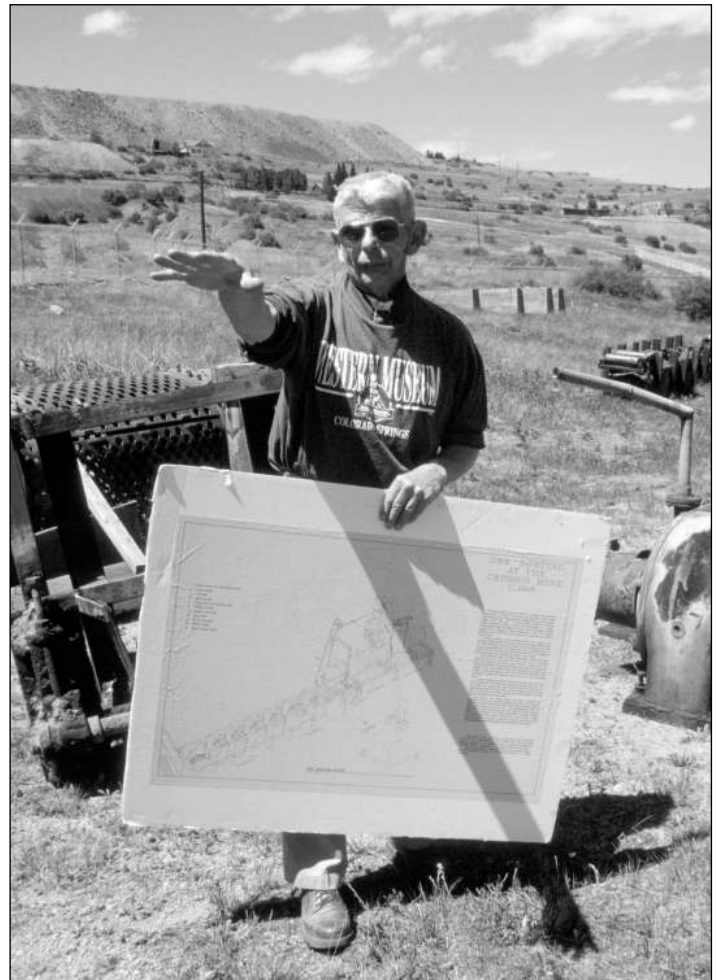
Karen Vendl and Mark Vendl

Ed Hunter, a long-time member of MHA, and our dear friend peacefully passed away on July 7, 2013 at his home in Victor, Colorado. He was 87 years old. Edgar T. Hunter was born in Yonkers, New York in 1926, and after turning 18, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Ed met Esther Cherry Sailer, and they were married in 1952. Ed graduated from the Colorado School of Mines in 1953 with a degree in mining engineering, and the two of them were off and running to a number of western mining camps over the years including Oracle, Arizona, Lark, Utah, southern New Mexico, Silverton, Colorado, and Nome, Alaska. In 1977, Ed and Cherry made Victor, Colorado, their home. Ed retired from the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company in 1993 as their History/Culture Permit Manager.

Ed had a life long interest in mining history and accumulated a large library of mining related books, as well as an impressive artifact collection of mine lighting. Ed and Cherry were active volunteers at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry in Colorado Springs. Ed was a founding member of the Southern Teller County Focus Group, which promotes historic preservation in the area. He was also very involved with the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum located in Victor, Colorado.

Ed was a very active member of the Mining History Association from its early days. He was the president of MHA in 2003-2004, council member in 1997-1999, on the nominating committee in 1995 and a member of the Distinguished Service Award Committee. Ed and Cherry organized the 2003 MHA annual conference in Cripple Creek, and Ed was awarded the Rodman Paul Award for outstanding contributions to mining history in 2002.

Cherry passed away in 2004. Our thoughts and sympathy go out to Ed's son, Andrew Thompson



*Ed Hunter explaining the ore sorting exhibit at the Independence Mine during the 2003 MHA conference in Cripple Creek, Colorado. (Photo courtesy of Mark and Karen Vendl)*

Hunter, and daughters Katherine Sailer Hunter, Nancy Bowman Hunter-Parker, Elizabeth-Cherry Taylor Hunter-Ball, and their families.

Donations, in lieu of cards and flowers, are being accepted in his memory at:

## **The Victor Lowell Thomas Museum**

PO Box 238

Victor, CO 80860

<http://www.victorcolorado.com/museum.htm>

Ed will be greatly missed.

# **Call for Papers**

## **2014 Mining History Association Annual Conference**

### **June 11-15, 2014 Trinidad, Colorado**

#### **“Raton Basin Coalfield: Rich Enough for a Rockefeller”**

Coal from the Raton Basin was vital to the industrialization of the late 19th- and early 20th-century West. The Basin was not only Colorado’s major metallurgical-coal field, but was also important in New Mexico’s early 20th century coal production. John D. Rockefeller Jr.’s Colorado Fuel & Iron Company was so dependent on the Basin’s coal for its Pueblo steel mill that CF&I built the 30-mile long Colorado & Wyoming railroad from Trinidad to its mines in the Purgatory Valley. By 1906, the American Smelting & Refining Company was producing coke from Raton Basin coal for its lead-zinc-silver smelters in Pueblo, Denver, and Leadville. In the New Mexico portion of the Basin, both Phelps-Dodge and Kaiser Steel coked coal from the Dawson-Vermejo Park area.

Today, Raton Basin coal mining is nearly extinct. It has been replaced by coal-bed methane gas wells spaced on a grid throughout the region. But evidence of the Basin’s coal mining past can still be seen in towns like Cokedale, Segundo, Starkville, and Boncarbo; in monuments in Trinidad, Hastings, and Ludlow; and in its people, many of whom are descended from miners who immigrated from Mexico, Italy, Greece, and Slovenia.

The Mining History Association will meet in historic Trinidad, Colorado, June 11-15, 2014. The Program Committee invites proposals for individual presentations or complete sessions (including chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions include three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no temporal or geographic limits, though preferred topics may include: Western coal mining history, coke in smelting metals, the coal/coke/steel relationship, mine management-labor relations, the 1913-14 coal strike, mine safety/accidents, life in a coal company town, and Rocky Mountain mining history.

Proposals should include the title of the presentation, an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each presentation, and biographical information about each presenter, including mailing/email address. Please indicate if the presenter intends to apply for a Graduate Student Travel Grant. Speakers must register for the conference in order to give their presentations. Please send written proposals to the program session committee by November 30, 2012. Submissions should be made by email attachment in Word format to:

**Dr. Eric Clements**  
Department of History  
Southeast Missouri State University  
[eclements@semo.edu](mailto:eclements@semo.edu)

# John Livermore (1918-2013)

Noel W. Kirshenbaum

John Sealy Livermore holds a remarkable significance in mining history. Not only was he one of us, knowledgeable in the subject, but John also made mining history.

His most outstanding discovery occurred in the early 1960s when he and a geochemist colleague, Alan Coope, working for Newmont Mining, followed a hunch, inspired by an obscure 1939 Bureau of Mines bulletin and a 1960 USGS report by Ralph Roberts. They drilled into what was to become known as the Carlin Trend. They found this large 5-by-40 mile area to be host to a huge deposit of gold-- but so finely disseminated that it was invisible to the human eye. Gold production from this source already exceeds 70 million ounces, and it still yields about four million ounces each year.

That discovery of his, made a half-century ago, is an enduring memorial to him. Just witness the continuing magnitude and importance of Carlin's gold production in Nevada -- and be awed.

John was born in San Francisco in 1918 and to the end of his life this February, at the age of 94, he was an avid exploration geologist. He didn't attend our society's last two annual meetings, but I well recall visiting with him at the 2010 meeting in Silver City, New Mexico. He had just come in from Colorado Springs where he'd been at a meeting of the Society for Industrial Archeology. At age 92, he took advantage of being in New Mexico to examine mineral properties in that area.

Just last year, 2012, I was surprised and personally honored when John came down from Reno to be present on the occasion of my receiving my oral history from the University of California's Bancroft Library. Those who'd like to know details of John's fascinating life should read his oral history, which is online.<sup>1</sup>

John was a descendent of California pioneers; his

great grandfather, Horatio Livermore, came to the state in 1850. His family engaged in mercury mining in Napa County, and his father, Norman Livermore, Sr. was an engineer. His mother is revered in Marin County because of her efforts on behalf of land conservation. John was one of five brothers, all benefactors of the environment. One brother, Norman, was Secretary of Resources under Governor Ronald Reagan. Another was an architect, and the surviving sibling, Putnam, is an attorney who was prominent in the organization Trust for Public Land. The family was philanthropic, and John was generous to many: among them, the Mackay School of Mines and Stanford, where he graduated in geology in 1940. A favorite project of his was the Tonopah Historic Mining Park, a recipient of grants from John's Public Resource Foundation.

Not long after his foremost discovery, Newmont moved him to eastern Canada. In 1970, he returned to Nevada and formed his own exploration firm that discovered several other gold mines. His modest nature, well known by friends and acquaintances, didn't convey his sagacity -- nor the fact that Newmont didn't reward him for his discovery of its greatest asset.

John Livermore is recognized as a "giant" by the industry. He was tall, physically, and in my opinion, his stature enhanced his noteworthy humility. I think his appearance reflected his fondness for the outdoors and his concern for the public and the environment as well as his family's New England heritage. John lived simply and shunned the spotlight; he had no pretensions and no airs. He never married, and he lived in an apartment without benefit of such distractions as television. He will be greatly missed by many, especially those privileged to have known him.

1. <http://archive.org/details/sealyprosgeolog00liverich>

## MHA Makes Social Media Home

The Mining History Association is steadily expanding its online presence, this year adding an official MHA page on popular social networking site Facebook.

At the MHA Council meeting in Galena, the board resolved to create and maintain a presence on Facebook. Long-time MHA member Barbara Clements volunteered to lead the effort and keep the page up to date. The page can be accessed at

<http://facebook.com/MiningHistoryAssociation> -- visitors do not need to be Facebook members to read the page, though a Facebook account is needed to comment. If you are a Facebook member, please take a look and "Like" the MHA!

The MHA's Facebook effort builds on the tremendous improvements to the MHA's website that have been orchestrated by Mike Kaas, MHA's Website Editor. Over the past several years, Kaas has made substantial additions to the quantity, quality, and timeliness of content available on the site, including photos and descriptions of past meetings, back-issues of the newsletter, and links to other mining history resources. Important current information for members is also posted to the website. Visit at:

<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.com>

MHA members are finding each other and talking about mining history on other social networks as well. Some members report connecting informally via **LinkedIn.com**, the career-focused social network. Also, Twitter users can use the **#mininghistory** hashtag to note and search for mining history tweets.

## U. Arizona Profiles Women in Mining

The University of Arizona's College of Engineering, home to the Department of Mining and Geological Engineering, recently published a series of informative articles featuring women in mining, from one of the first female mining graduates of Arizona (1978) to a current student leader. These interesting profiles can be found on the web:

<http://enr.arizona.edu/news/story.php?id=603>

## International Congress to Meet Down Under in 2014

The 10th International Mining History Congress will be held at Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia, July 7-13, 2014. MHA members may fondly remember previous IMHC meetings in Cornwall, South Africa, Japan, Golden, Colorado, and elsewhere. The conference theme will be "Past Heritages: Future Prospects," and mining history work from any time or geographic locality will be considered. This international event will be coordinated with the annual Australasian Mining History Conference.

Charters Towers is located in the Australian north, in a dry tropical zone. Though the conference will be held during the Australian winter, the weather in Charters Towers is mild, with a daily average high of 77°F and low of 53°F.

Further details, including a Call for Papers, are being steadily released to the conference website:

<http://www.ct2014miningcongress.com>

## Flash Flood Closes Bannack Ghost Town

A debris-laden flash flood hit the historic mining ghost town of Bannack, Montana on July 17, 2013, forcing visitors to flee, causing damage to historic structures, and causing the indefinite closure of the park. MHA members visited Bannack during the Dillon meeting in 2011. The Assay Office building, which also had been used as a general store, was destroyed in the flood, along with most of the boardwalk. Many other buildings were flooded or damaged. Cleanup and restoration are being pushed forward as quickly as possible. Further details can be found at <http://www.bannack.org> and on the Bannack Association's Facebook page.

*Mining History Association*  
P.O. Box 552  
Sedalia, CO 80135

## **First Class Mail**

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## **Upcoming Events**

**Western History Association Conference**  
Oct. 9-12, 2013  
Tucson, AZ

**2014 Mining History Association Conference**  
June 11-15, 2014 (CORRECTED DATES)  
Trinidad, CO

**INHIGEO: International Commission on the  
History of Geological Sciences 39th  
Symposium**  
July 6-10, 2014  
Pacific Grove, CA

**10th International Mining History Congress**  
July 7-13, 2014  
Charters Towers, Queensland, Australia  
<http://www.ct2014miningcongress.com>

**2015 Mining History Association Conference  
(Silver Anniversary Meeting)**  
June 11-14, 2015  
Virginia City, NV

The *Mining History News* is published quarterly by the Mining History Association. It is sent to MHA members who also receive the annual *Mining History Journal*. The MHA is an organization of individuals interested in the history of mining and metallurgy. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Newsletter Editor Eric Nystrom at the MHA address or by email: [eric.nystrom@rit.edu](mailto:eric.nystrom@rit.edu).

Deadlines:    Spring issue: February 15  
                  Summer issue: June 15  
                  Fall issue: August 15  
                  Winter issue: November 15

Change of Address: Please send all address changes to Diane Dudley, Membership Chair, at:

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