



# THE MINING HISTORY JOURNAL



The Thirtieth Annual Journal of  
The Mining History Association

---

## The Mining History Association

### Officers:

Dana Bennett, President  
Eric Clements, Vice President  
Christopher Huggard, Past President  
James Fell, Treasurer  
Brian Leech, Secretary  
Barbara Clements, Membership

### Council Members:

Ron Brown, 2021-2024  
Lynn Langenfeld, 2021-2024  
Robert McQueen, 2021-2024  
Jennifer Dunn, 2022-2025  
Ed Raines, 2022-2025  
Dick Beach, 2023-2026  
Rudy Davidson, 2023-2026

## The Mining History Journal

### Editorial Board:

Silvia Pettem (chair), Ronald Brown, James Fell, Mark Langenfeld,  
Jeremy Mouat, Paul Spyhalski, Mark Vendl

Eric L. Clements, Editor  
Barbara A. Clements, Compositor

The *Mining History Journal* is provided to all members of the Association. Membership is open to anyone interested in the history of mining and metallurgy. Information or applications for membership may be obtained from Barbara Clements, Mining History Association, P.O. Box 1536, Cape Girardeau, MO 63702; or at: [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org). Members receive quarterly newsletters and the journal.

The journal welcomes manuscripts on any subject in mining and metallurgical history in any era or region. Manuscripts, books for review, announcements, inquiries regarding advertising or the purchase of back issues of the journal, and other correspondence related to the journal should be sent to: Mining History Journal; Department of History and Anthropology, MS2960; Southeast Missouri State University; Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, or to: [eclements@semo.edu](mailto:eclements@semo.edu).

Manuscripts should be submitted typed, double-spaced, and with endnotes. The journal only accepts manuscripts via e-mail or on CD or DVD and Microsoft WORD format is required. All manuscripts are required to follow the style formats specified in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17<sup>th</sup> edition.

Illustrations should not be embedded in the manuscript, but their approximate locations should be indicated in the text and captions provided. Submit illustrations as separate files scanned as TIFF or jpeg at a minimum of 5 x 7 inches and 300dpi. Photos copied from websites will not be used. Authors are responsible for obtaining copyright and print and electronic use permissions for all illustrations and for paying any associated fees.

The Editorial Board of the *Mining History Journal* presents the annual John M. Townley Award to the author of the best article in that year's journal. Criteria for the Townley Award include: the significance of the topic to mining history; the originality, quality, and depth of research; literary quality; and the quality of accompanying illustrations.

Articles appearing in this journal are abstracted and indexed in HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE.

Contents © 2023 by *The Mining History Journal*. ISSN 2688-5891 (print); ISSN 2688-5905 (online).

# The Mining History Journal

## 2023

### Articles

Huggard's Mining History Odyssey:  
A Personal Memoir and Historiographic Commentary / 1  
*Christopher J. Huggard*

Mines and Airplanes: A Reminiscence / 31  
*Eleanor Swent*

The Notorious Hartsfeld, "Process Man" / 36  
*Dan Plazak*

Conserving Resources, Saving Lives:  
Strip Mining Coal in America, 1880-1945 / 51  
*Mark Aldrich*

A Forgotten Robinson Gold Dredge at the Portis Mine:  
Diminishing Returns, Flimflam, and Bankruptcy at the  
End of North Carolina's Gold Rush / 74  
*James P. Delgado*

Mining and the Folklore of the West:  
The Role of industry in Shaping Regional Traditions / 87  
*Ronald M. James*

Recent Publications on the History of Mining / 101  
*Compiled by Lysa Wegman-French*

Book Reviews / 125

David Forsyth, *Eben Smith: The Dean of Western Mining*.

By James Copeland

Alan J. M. Noonan, *Mining Irish-American Lives: Western Communities from 1849 to 1920*.

By William Mulligan

Leigh Campbell-Hale, *Remembering Ludlow but Forgetting the Columbine: The 1927-1928 Colorado Coal Strike*.

By Dawn Bunyak

Index to Articles Published in the Mining History Journal, 2019-2023 / 130

FRONT COVER: The cemetery at Kelly, New Mexico. The fence in the foreground encloses the graves of Kelly pioneers Janiah Odell (1823-1895), Mary Melvina Odell (1826-1925), Adolph P. Bechaud (1888-1889), and Lottie M. Bechaud (1853-1941). Kelly attained a peak population of about three thousand, but, with mining waning, its post office (est. 1883) closed in 1945, its last residents departed in 1947, and many of its structures were relocated to nearby Magdalena. The mountain in the background is the tuff—the igneous rock formed of material ejected from a volcanic vent—within the caldera that produced the mineral wealth that gave life to Kelly. (Editor's photo.)

BACK COVER: The campus of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, at Socorro, with the Charles and Jessie Headen Center, home of the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, in the background. Established in 1889 as the New Mexico School of Mines, it was one of such universities that proliferated in mining states and provinces in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, providing to the industry, then and since, personnel and knowledge that enable it to meet the resource demands of modern society. (Editor's photo.)