

# MHA BIRMINGHAM 2022

## Birmingham Hilton at UAB

Presenter abstracts and biographical available  
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### Conference Schedule

#### Thursday, June 23

10:00-6:00 – Registration – Hamilton Conference Room

10:00-12:00 – MHA and Editorial Board Meetings – Location TBD

1:00-5:30 – Tour of Sloss Furnace and Iron Pour

*Note: A shuttle service will be operating during the entire afternoon between the hotel, the airport, and Sloss Furnace  
Participants may also park their personal vehicles at Sloss (20 32<sup>nd</sup> Street North, Birmingham, AL 35222).*

1:00-4:00 – Self-guided Tours of Sloss Furnace

2:30-4:00 – Guided Tours of Sloss Furnace

4:00-5:30 – Iron Pour Demonstration

6:30-9:30 – Opening Reception – Hilton / Pool Veranda Area

#### Friday, June 24

*Note: Registration, sessions and lunches at the Hilton / Hamilton I and II Meeting Rooms*

7:00-11:30 – Registration

8:00-8:30 – Welcome and Opening Comments

8:45-9:45 – Session 1 – Iron in Alabama

Session Chair: Eric Nystrom

“The Iron Trail Leading to Birmingham,” Fred Barnard

“Iron Ore Mining on Red Mountain, 1880s-1960s,” Jack Bergstresser

“Bessemer’s Woodward Iron Company as an Example of Integrated Iron  
Manufacturing in the Birmingham District,” Paul Spyhalski

9:45-10:00 – Break

10:00-11:15 – Session 2 – Heritage Matters

Session Chair: Patrick Pospisek

“Colorado Mining History in Images: Accessibility and Preservation for the Long Haul,” Lisa Dunn

“Kentucky’s Coal Heritage Trail,” Steve Gardner

“Language, Community, and Opportunity: Irish Copper Miners in the  
Michigan Copper Country, 1845-1900,” William Mulligan

“Naming the Unnamed in Leadville, Colorado: The Effort to Memorialize 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Irish Exiles in Unmarked Pauper Graves at 10,200 Feet,” James Walsh

11:30-1:00 - Lunch

“Diamonds in the Rough: A History of Alabama’s Cahaba Coal Field,” James Day

1:00-1:15 – Break

## **Friday, June 24** (continued)

1:15-2:00 – Session 3 – But Wait! Still More Alabama Mining History!

Session Chair: Chris Huggard

“The Archaeology of Smythe Camp and Emergence of African American  
Ore Miners, ca. 1870 through 1910, Jack Bergstresser

“Alabama Gold,” Peggy Walls

2:00-2:15 – Break

2:15-3:00 – Session 4 – The Federal Presence

Session Chair: Terry Reynolds

“Locating Mining Knowledge: Expertise, Government, and Extraction in 1880s America,” Eric Nystrom

“The Mining Industry, U.S. Congress, and Native American Land Dispossession, 1880-1920,” Paul White

3:00-3:15 – Break

3:15-4:15 – Session 5 – Techniques and Technologies

Session Chair: Mike Kaas

“From Alabama Gold to Utah Silver: The Journeys of Two Practical Mining Engineers, 1889 to 1979,”

Laurence James and James Fell

“Exactly What is Mining and the Coming Age of the Hydraulic Processes,” Ed Raines

6:00-7:00 – Relocate to Vulcan Park

*Note: A shuttle service will operate between the hotel and Vulcan Park before and after the event.*

*Participants may also park their personal vehicles at the park (1701 Valley View Dr. Birmingham, AL 35209).*

6:30-9:00 – Awards Banquet – Vulcan Park

“Vulcan: A Symbol of Birmingham’s Industrial Epoch,” Jameson Pressley

Enjoy Vulcan Park’s dramatic setting from atop Red Mountain with a panoramic overlook of downtown. Attendees may access the museum, the Vulcan statue, and the patio overlook.

## **Saturday, June 25**

*Note: Registration, sessions and lunches at the Hilton / Hamilton I and II Meeting Rooms*

8:45-9:45 – Session 6 – The Cavalcade of Mining, Part 1

Session Chair: Erik Nordberg

“Business Law and Mining: Megantic County’s Early Copper Mining Companies,” William Culver

“The History of the Bertha Mines and Pulaski Zinc Smelter in Virginia,” Michael Kaas

“First Iron Smelting Operation on the Pacific Coast, Lake Oswego, Oregon,” Clark Niewendorp

9:45-10:00 – Break

10:00-11:15 – Session 7 – The Cavalcade of Mining, Part 2

Session Chair: Fred Barnard

“A False Glimmer of Hope: The Rise and Fall of Arkansas’ Cinnabar Mining District, 1931-1946,” Terry Reynolds

“Failure to Protect: Asbestos Contamination from the Vermiculite Mine in Libby, Montana, 1963-1990,” Jennifer Dunn

“State Government Promotion of Clay Mining in West Tennessee,” Erik Nordberg

“Frozen to Death in Death Valley,” Rudy Davison

11:15-11:30 – Break

**Saturday, June 25** (continued)

11:30-1:00 – Presidential Luncheon

“Huggard's Mining History Odyssey,” Chris Huggard

2:00-6:00 – Saturday Tours

*Note: Buses depart from the front entrance of the Hilton.*

Saturday Tour #1: Red Mountain Park, with iron mining enthusiast Jeff Newman.  
Explore this mountaintop park with walking trails among former iron ore mines.

Saturday Tour #2: Company Towns, with UAB Professor Pam King.  
Visit mining communities and owners’ mansions lining the brow of Red Mountain.

6:00 – Dinner on Your Own

**Sunday, June 26**

**Sunday Tours**

*Note: Buses depart from the front entrance of the Hilton.*

9:00-5:00 – Sunday Tour #1: Sylacauga Marble, hosted by Sculptor-in-Residence Craigger Browne and Sylacauga Marble author Ruth Beaumont Cook. Box lunch included.

10:00-5:00 – Sunday Tour #2: Tannehill, Blocton, Brierfield, guided by Industrial Archeologist Jack Bergstresser. Box lunch included.