



Winter 2016

# *Mining History News*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

## **Staking a Claim: MHA Meeting Locations**

It has already been six months since we gathered in Telluride. Where does the time go? As we enter 2017, our thoughts turn northward – way, way northward – to the 2017 MHA Annual Conference which will be held June 15-19 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Our hosts Paul White, Tom Bundtzen, and Rolfe Buzzell are finalizing an amazing array of tours, while the program committee consisting of Jeremy Mouat, Robert Spude, Paul White, and chair Eric Nystrom continue to gather submissions for conference presentations.

During the Telluride conference, MHA Council confirmed June 6-10, 2018 for a conference in Deadwood, South Dakota. David Wolff and Bob Otto will serve as local hosts for this gathering in the South Dakota gold district. In recent months, Council also selected Marquette, Michigan, for June 6-10, 2019. Mark and Lynn Langenfeld will be our hosts for this visit to the Marquette and Menominee iron ranges.

The selection of sites for our conferences can be challenging and evokes questions from our membership. Over its first 25 years, MHA has found its strength in the western mining regions of the United States. This is not surprising as the region includes some of the most significant locales in North American mining history, and many of our members have worked in the mining industry in this region. As a result, a larger number of our annual conferences have been held in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Idaho, and Montana (we also snuck across the border to Rossland, British Columbia in 1996). Members such as Mark and Karen Vendl,

Ed Raines and Sylvia Pettem, Duane and Gay Smith, Ed and Cherry Hunter, introduced us to these places which were so dear to their hearts.

This is not to say that our Association has not also explored other significant non-western mineral locales. My wife, Jane, and I have hosted conferences in Michigan's historic copper district and Minnesota's famed Mesabi iron range, Johnny and Dawn Johnson drew us to the anthracite coal fields of Scranton, Pennsylvania, while Eric and Barbara Clements and Mark and Lynn Langenfeld had us on the hunt for lead along the Mississippi River in Farmington, Missouri, and Galena, Illinois.

In his 2008 conference address, MHA president Ron Limbaugh encouraged our organization to be more proactive in considering significant mining locales it had yet to visit. While he conceded the likely futility for consensus on a single rank-order listing of such sites, this ongoing discussion helps to guide our organization. There are, however, some numeric and fiscal realities to consider as well. With our membership base in the American West, it is inevitable that conferences held outside of this region will prove a more difficult draw. At the same time, the newer venues allow us to engage with local and regional audiences (including recent – and younger – converts to the mining history field) who help to diversify the content of our conference, our membership, and the collective information we generate. One member suggested a 3-year cycle, with a meeting in the western United States, a meeting in the eastern United States, and the third in some more

## Staking a Claim

*continued from page 1*

exotic locale in Canada, Mexico, or Alaska. Others have suggested that we create a meeting planning committee or employ a meeting coordinator to identify, select, and even run our conferences. For the time being, however, MHA will likely continue to approach meeting selection more reactively, with proposals coming (often unsolicited) from different locales around the continent.

As a result, the most crucial selection factor for our meeting sites has often been a human one. At a blunt, operational level, we must have a trustworthy volunteer host who can organize the meeting. Although program committees and others provide critical roles, MHA conferences almost always rely on a single person (or couple of people) at the heart of the operation. In most cases, these individuals have been members for many years, have attended previous MHA conferences, and anticipate what our organization wants from its annual conference. Although scholarship, tours, and intellectual

exchange are important, there is also a hard-to-describe character of an MHA conference which grows from the social events, meals, and activities, as well as the historic character of the host district and town. My thanks go to the folks I've identified above who have committed their energy to being this person (or persons) – and to the others too numerous to mention in this space.

Looking back on the many successful conferences MHA has held in locations around the continent, I know that MHA will continue to push the envelope and explore more places and stories from North American mining history. As our membership expands and diversifies, new hosts will emerge to lure us to their corner of the continent and the historical gems it holds.

We each have an opportunity to shape the future of the Mining History Association. I look forward to continuing this conversation at our next three conferences. Have you made your flight reservations for Fairbanks yet?

Happy New Year,

Erik Nordberg, MHA President 2016-2017

## Mining History Association Dues Reminder

Our society depends on members like you - thank you for your support of the MHA!

<b>Student:</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Individual:</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>International:</b>	<b>\$45.00</b>
<b>Institutional (journal only):</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Sustaining:</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Patron Membership:</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Corporate Member:</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

**Diane Dudley, Membership Chair**

**Mining History Association**

323 Daniels Place

Cañon City, CO 81212

**Note: MHA address has changed!**

## Transitions

**John Carroll, M.D.** of Tuscan, AZ. John Carroll passed away in early October at age 85. John and his wife Georgianne have been MHA members since the 2007 conference in Leadville.

**Lloyd Harkins** of Butte, MT. always felt that museums were a very important part of saving our mining history. He passed away at 94 years.

**Robert D. Stull**, of Broken Handle Mining Co., Denver, CO, passed away on July 16, 2016. "He always loved the mining association. He would have loved to go to Alaska next year in fact, he talked about it for years."

## 11th International Mining History Congress

On Monday, September 5th, participants in the latest International Mining History Congress gathered in Linares, Spain. There were nearly 100 presentations over the week ending Saturday the 10th. A major aspect of the meeting was the daily field trip to see the district's varied mine shafts, buildings, headframes and chimneys – all reflecting Cornish influence. Many of the mine visits were made when temperatures were hitting 47 C/117 F.

The Linares region was a major producer of lead over the late nineteenth century well into the twentieth, and the hundreds of remaining structures make it a major world mining heritage site.

The local arrangements were made by the Colectivo Proyecto Arrayanes <[www.proyectoarrayanes.org](http://www.proyectoarrayanes.org)> – a group whose members are dedicated to mining heritage preservation.

Robert Vernon (U.K.) led the organization of the sessions. A number of MHA members were in attendance and made presentations. There were two opening keynote addresses. Octavio Puche provided a broad view of mining in Spain over the last 4,000 years. Antonio Ángel Pérez gave an integrated history of lead mining in the Linares-La Carolina district. The next meeting is expected in three years, with the site yet to be determined.

*Bill Culver*

## MHA Seeks Nominations of Books Published in 2015 or 2016 for the Spence Awards

The **Clark C. Spence Award** recognizes the mining history book that comes closest to achieving the rigorous documentation and narrative standards set by the works of Clark C. Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

The **Mary Lee Spence Award** recognizes the mining history book that best represents the high quality of editing documents, letters, diaries, photographs, oral histories and similar works set by Mary Lee Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

To be considered for either award, a 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 2015 or 2016. Each award comes with a \$500 cash prize, which will be

presented to the winning authors at the 2017 Mining History Association Annual Meeting.

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

**David Wolff**  
**MHA Book Award Committee**  
**4018 Ward Ave.**  
**Spearfish, SD 57783**

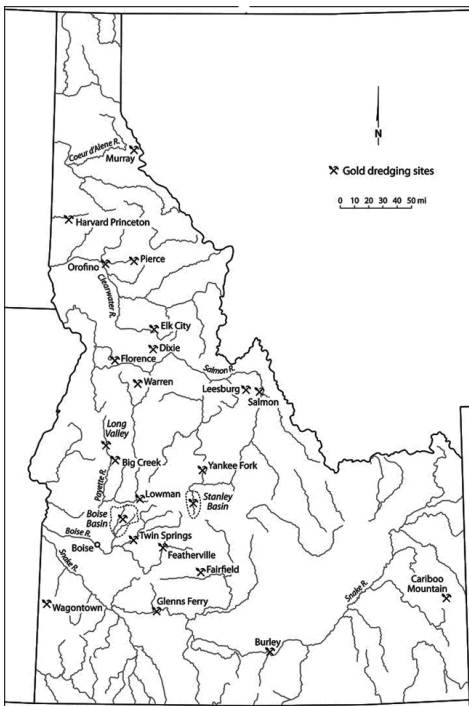
The Mining History Association is pleased to announce that Eric Nystrom's *Seeing Underground: Maps, Models, and Mining Engineering in America* won the Clark C. Spence Award for 2013-2014, and that *My Home at Present: Life in the Mining Boarding Houses in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado* by Mark A. Vendl, Duane A. Smith, and Karen A. Vendl won the Mary Lee Spence Award for 2013-2014.

## Books by MHA Members

**Clark C. Spence, *A History of Gold Dredging in Idaho* (Boulder: University of Colorado Press, 2016)**

*A History of Gold Dredging in Idaho* tells the story of a revolution in placer mining—and its subsequent impact on the state of Idaho—from its inception in the early 1880s until its demise in the early 1960s. Idaho was the nation's fourth-leading producer of dredged gold after 1910 and therefore provides an excellent lens through which to observe the practice and history of gold dredging.

Author Clark Spence focuses on the two most important types of dredges in the state—the bucket-line dredge and the dragline dredge—and describes their financing, operation, problems, and effect on the state and environment. Providing a record of Idaho's dredging history for the first time, this book is a significant contribution to the knowledge and understanding of Western mining, its technology, and its overall development as a major industry of the twentieth century.



(Map from page 2,  
*A History of Gold Dredging in Idaho*).

**Don Paulson, *Mines, Miners and Much More* (Chicago: Twain Associates, 2015)**

*Mines, Miners, and Much More* paints a broad colorful picture of the history of gold and silver mining in the San Juan Triangle of Southwestern Colorado (Ouray, Silverton and Telluride) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The book discusses the role of prospectors and mining entrepreneurs in creating and operating mines and covers the miner's life at the mines and in the mining towns. Chapters are also included on transportation, labor relations, mining dangers, milling and smelting gold and silver ore, the Million Dollar Highway as well as several other topics including a chapter on area mining sites that can be uan Triangle of Southwestern Colorado (Ouray, Silverton and Telluride) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The book discusses the role of prospectors and mining entrepreneurs in creating and operating mines and covers the miner's life at the mines and in the mining towns.

**Thayer, David L. and Douglas R. Thayer, *Tailings or Treasure: The Mears and Wilfley Mill* (San Juan County Historical Society, Silverton, CO.)**

A social history of Otto Mears and Arthur Wilfley's joint venture reprocessing mill tailings near Silverton, CO.

### Hunter Mining History Library

Ed and Cherry Hunter donated their mining history collection to the Lowell Thomas Museum in Victor, Colorado. The museum has embarked on a \$48,000 library improvement project. More than \$3,000 has already been donated in memory of Ed and Cherry.

For more information:

<http://victorcolorado.com/museumdonations.htm>

## Candidate Biographies for MHA Elections

### **Candidate: Vice President/President-Elect**

#### **Keith Long**

As a young boy, Keith Long's interest in mining history and geology was kindled by family camping trips along the Mother Lode in California. He studied geology at the University of California Santa Cruz and the University of Michigan before completing a doctorate in Mineral Economics at the University of Arizona in 1988. Summer jobs with mining companies took him to many historic mine sites throughout the west, where he learned the value of using mining history to interpret who did what, where, and when before spending any significant exploration dollars. Since graduation, he has worked for the U.S. Geological Survey as a research geologist mainly in mineral resource assessment. Keith pioneered the use of mining history to reconstruct the discovery record of an area and in environmental assessments of old mining districts. In the early 1990s, field work in Bolivia uncovered many forgotten colonial mining camps as well as a major zinc-silver deposit (San Cristobal) high-graded by the Spaniards and now one of the largest silver mines in the world. A longtime member of MHA, he has presented numerous times at MHA Conferences and was the recipient of the John M. Townley Award in 2001. He currently serves on the MHA book award committee.

### **Candidate: Nominating Committee**

#### **Barbara Clements**

Barbara is a native Coloradoan thanks to her great-grandfather who came to Leadville in 1878 as an assayer. She and her husband, Eric, have been MHA members since 1990 and have attended almost all MHA conferences. Barbara has served on the MHA Board and is the composatrix of the MHA Journal and Newsletter.

### **Candidates: Council (3 candidates/2 positions)**

#### **Steve Hart**

Steve Hart is a geological engineer with 45 years in government employment and private consulting.

His education at the Colorado School of Mines and Texas A&M University was followed by 12 years with the U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado Department of Natural Resources. Work as a reviewer of Mined Land Reclamation and Radioactive Source Material permit applications led to consulting on radioactive waste cleanup projects at uranium mines and mills, Superfund lead-zinc-silver smelter remediation projects, and coal mine subsidence mapping. His work took him to every Western state, including Alaska, and to Asia and South America. In the late 1990's, Steve taught a graduate course in "Case Histories in Engineering Geology and Hydrogeology" as a part-time adjunct at the Colorado School of Mines. He retired from URS Corporation (now AECOM), the world's largest engineering design firm, then worked as an independent consultant through 2010.

#### **Terry S. Reynolds**

I am a retired professor of history from Michigan Tech, currently residing in south Arkansas. I came to mining history as a result of moving to Michigan Tech in Michigan's copper country in 1983. As chair of the Department of Social Sciences at Michigan Tech from 1990-2002, I worked with my faculty to initiate what was then the only graduate program in industrial archaeology in America and to bring the headquarters of the Society for Industrial Archaeology (SIA) to campus. Early industrial archaeology work included a survey of regional copper mining remains. After deciding that twelve years as department chair was enough (more than enough), I returned to the faculty in 2002 and focused my research and writing on the Lake Superior iron mining industry. The results have included three pieces published in MHA's journal (Tale of two companies, liquid nitroglycerine, and scrapers were the topics), in addition to other articles and a co-authored book (Iron Will: Cleveland-Cliffs and the Mining of Iron Ore, 1847-2006). I continue to work on topics related to the history of iron ore mining.

I have past experience serving professional organizations, like MHA. Most notably, I served as president of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) in 1999 and 2000. Currently, I am vice chair of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' History and Heritage Committee. I would bring to MHA's council a package of past experience in a similar role in another society (SHOT), extensive involvement with graduate students working in mining history, experience in the publications program of a sister organization (SIA), and interest in a different area of mining (geographically and topically) than most MHA members (i.e., non-Western USA, iron rather than precious metals).

### **Cathy Spude**

Cathy received her PhD in Anthropology in 1991 at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She worked as a historical archaeologist for the National Park Service for 30 years before retiring to write Alaska history. Most of the time in her later years as an archaeologist focused on historical research related to the sociology and history of mining communities. She has published four non-fiction histories (largely biographical in emphasis) with university presses, and one historical novel. In addition, she has published both peer-reviewed and popular articles in such venues as Historical Archaeology, Alaska History, Arctic, Pacific Northwest Quarterly, True West Magazine, and Wild West History. She continues to do historical research for mining communities and is shifting her focus from Alaska to the Southwest. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico with her husband, Bob Spude.

---

## **2017 Mining History Association Ballot**

Biographies begin on page 5

**Mail ballot by March 15, 2017 to:**

**Mining History Association**

**c/o Diane Dudley**

**323 Daniels Place**

**Cañon City, CO 81212**

**Vice President/President Elect (one-year term  
beginning June 2017)**

Vote for one:

- Keith Long**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

**Nominating Committee (one position, three-year  
term beginning June 2017)**

Vote for one:

- Barbara Clements**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

**Council (two positions with three-year terms  
beginning June 2017)**

Vote for two:

- Steve Hart**
- Terry S. Reynolds**
- Cathy Spude**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (write in)

# Mining Nuggets

## Gold Mining and Hornet Balls

Gold mining was happening in the eastern states in the 1820's, long before the 49ers began their trek to the California Gold Rush and the subsequent mining rushes in the west. About an hour's drive west of Washington, DC, in Goldvein, VA, is one of the nicest small mining museums. It portrays the nearly forgotten gold mining heritage of the area. The Monroe Park Gold Camp Museum is a hidden treasure for mining history buffs. It is also home to the most unusual pieces of gold mining equipment you will find anywhere, the Hornet Balls, but more about them in a minute.

Goldvein is located in Fauquier County. Historically, there were 19 gold mines in the Virginia Gold-Pyrite Belt that cuts through the county. Most of the mines were small, but the Franklin, Union, Liberty, and Randolph were among the larger operations. The Franklin Mine opened in 1825 and had a 300 foot vertical shaft and a stamp mill. The mine produced \$1.2 million worth of gold before the Civil War. In those days, Virginia was considered an important gold producer. In the 1840's, production was averaging 3,000 ounces per year. During and after the Civil War, production in the region declined sharply. After a short revival in the Great Depression years, the mines shut down for good.

The Moore Park museum is operated by the Fauquier County Parks and Recreation Department and patterned after the small mining camps that were once located at many of the mines. Three buildings, the Assay Office, the Mess Hall, and the Bunk House, contain excellent exhibits that describe the mining operations and the life of the miners. Outdoor displays contain pieces of mining equipment gathered from area mines and a sluice system to demonstrate gold panning. A headframe and a hoist house are envisioned for the future.

That brings us to the Hornet Balls which are displayed on the park grounds. They were found at the Liberty Mine. Each ball is a sphere about 7 feet in diameter with iron flanged circular openings on opposite sides. The hollow spheres are made of reinforced concrete. Not strong enough to be ball mills, the spheres are thought to have been mounted on a horizontal axle that enabled them to rotate around a central point, much like a gigantic Chilean mill used to grind ore. An exhibit model illustrates their operation. They are likely a one-of-a-kind device and a highlight of the museum.

The website for Moore Park, <http://www.goldvein.com/>, is an excellent way to learn more about the Gold Camp Museum. Another useful reference is the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy's Publication 19, "Gold in Virginia," which can be downloaded, [http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/commercedocs/PUB\\_19.pdf](http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/commercedocs/PUB_19.pdf).

*L. Michael "Mike" Kaas*



*Mining History Association*  
323 Daniels Place  
Cañon City, CO 81212

---

## Upcoming Events

### **2017 Business History Conference**

30 March - April 2 2017

Denver, CO

### **2017 Organization of American Historians**

6-9 April 2017

New Orleans, LA

### **2017 Society for Industrial Archeology**

18-21 May 2017

Houston, TX

### **2017 MHA Conference**

15-19 June 2017

Fairbanks, AK

Complete information in the Spring Newsletter

### **2018 Mining History Association Conference**

7-10 June 2018

Deadwood, SD

The **Mining History Association** is an organization of individuals interested in the history of mining and metallurgy.

**[www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)**

*The Mining History News* is published quarterly by the for the members of the MHA. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Nathan Delaney, **[nathan.delaney@case.edu](mailto:nathan.delaney@case.edu)**.

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

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