



Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

A Publication of the Mining History Association

Summer 2021

Presidential Pickings – One to Remember

Now that our Elko “virtual conference” is in the rear view mirror, I think I can safely say this: it went better than just about anyone expected, and that’s no small victory for a volunteer group trying to adapt on the fly to a global pandemic. The Mining History Association’s culture and traditions ended up being an asset in pivoting to a virtual environment, and the hard work of our resilient conference planners created an excellent learning experience.

Consider the ways in which our normal practices helped us in adapting to a virtual meeting. We have long tried to hold just one paper at a time during our in-person meetings, so that everyone in attendance has an opportunity to see all the papers. (I can think of just twice where this was not the case, at Scranton in 2005 and Virginia City in 2015, where there were just too many good submissions to turn them away.) In our virtual meeting, this one-at-a-time pace was crucial to simplifying the entire conference. Most everyone knew where to be, when, and we were able to use much simpler technology compared to that employed by some of the larger conferences holding virtual meetings. It also meant that we could handle the technical side with a minimum number of trained people, which simplified coordination and planning. We’ve had plenty of situations in previous meetings where, due to the setup of the room, speakers were not directly in charge of running their own presentation slides, so it wasn’t an issue to do it that way this time either. And we have a large reservoir of goodwill among our members, which proved essential in making this work. If we made a mistake – because none of us had ever planned a virtual conference before – we knew you would be willing to forgive us for it.

We were also able to take advantage of some of the advantages the virtual environment gave us. Foremost among them was the opportunity to hear from people who might not usually be able to make the trip. I know of at least a couple of research papers whose authors could not have traveled, and a few old friends we saw online that we wouldn’t have been able to see if the conference had taken place in person. (What a treat!) The virtual tours took us to places that we would simply not have been able to travel as a group. (More on that in a moment.) We also had access to the recordings of the sessions for a week afterward on a private YouTube link, which was a nice balance between the ability to go back and re-watch particular talks, and the rights and permissions needed to put the talks permanently on video out in the world. And of course, conference attendees certainly saved the cost of travel!

Barbara Clements deserves the lion’s share of the credit for figuring out how we could make this all work online, with some key input from the MHA Council. Barbara and I worked throughout

the conference to handle the technical stuff, passing the baton back and forth, encountering just a couple of glitches en route to a successful meeting.

Our Elko conference planning team was the other ingredient to our success. Dick Reid, Dana Bennett, Rob McQueen, Dean Heitt, and Jenny Hildebrand rolled with the punches and did a wonderful job. The printed program, sent to all participants, is an informative keepsake. We got a good number of discussions of northeastern Nevada mining history, in keeping with the spirit of the “local” content. The virtual tours of Eureka by Dick Reid and the Cortez area by Rob McQueen were interesting and insightful. I suspect most members would prefer to put their own boots on the ground, of course, but we were able to get to see some things that we couldn’t have seen otherwise, and nobody got sunburned or a mislabeled lunch.

In all, while I suspect most of us are eager to resume gathering in person, our first virtual conference was a major success. Hopefully, we can incorporate some of the best ideas to come out of it – such as an occasional virtual tour to an otherwise-inaccessible place – into our regular practices. I’m optimistic, too, that we can harness some of the energy that comes through meeting more regularly via online means into our practices. The MHA Nuggets are bite-sized presentations on a wide variety of topics, hosted on Zoom then posted on YouTube. And I plan to convene the MHA Council to meet quarterly via Zoom as well, so we can have more of the business of the organization completed before next June. So while I hope we don’t have to hold a virtual conference again (no more pandemics please!), I think we can be proud of how our traditions and culture carried us through this one. Thanks, everyone.

Eric Nystrom
MHA President

Election Results and Call for Nominations

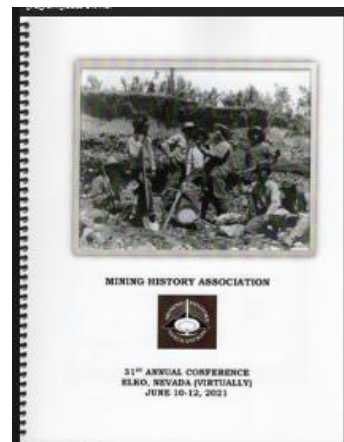
Eric Nystrom virtually progressed from Vice President to President. John C. Stewart was elected Vice President (President-Elect).

Robert McQueen, Lynn Langenfeld, Eric Clements, and Ron Brown were each elected to the MHA Council. Stephen Hart moves from the MHA Council to the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee is charged with filling the following positions in the coming year: Vice President (President Elect); three Council Members, and one member to the Nominating Committee. Feel free to nominate anyone (including yourself) for any of these positions.

Conference Programs

The Elko Conference Committee has a few extra conference programs available for purchase. Your cost to obtain one will be \$13. To obtain a copy, please contact Dean Heitt at dgheitt@frontiernet.net.



Mining History Association Awards

The MHA establishes various committees to annually review applications and nominations and to decide whether to issue certain awards. The process culminates with the announcement of award winners at the MHA Awards Banquet. This past year's award winners were:

The **Rodman Paul Award** is given in honor of scholar and mining historian Rodman Paul whose influence in the field of Western mining research inspired a generation of future mining historians. The Award is given for outstanding contributions to mining history.

This year's recipient of the Rodman Paul Award is **Silvia Pettem**. The Rodman Paul Award Committee noted that this year's award was given for Silvia's outstanding and varied contributions to mining and regional history including authorship of her own books starting with *Red Rocks to Riches: Gold Mining in Boulder County*. She has authored many other books and articles and supports other authors through her company *The Book Lode*.

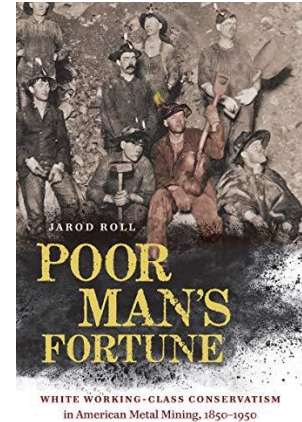
The **Ed Hunter Award for Distinguished Service** recognizes individuals for distinguished service to MHA. The 2020 Ed Hunter Distinguished Award was given to **Michael Kaas** for his many years of dedicated service managing the MHA website. The 2021 Ed Hunter Distinguished Service Award was given to **Lysa Wegman-French** for her many contributions to the MHA Journal including 19 years of maintaining the mining bibliographic references included in the Journal.

John Townley published the first Mining History Journal. The **John Townley Award** is given in honor of this achievement to the best essay published in the MHA Journal in the previous issue. The 2019 Townley Award is awarded to John R. Henris for his article "*Trout Fishing Must Eventually Give Way to Mining:*" *Cyanide Mills and Recreation on Spearfish Creek in the South Dakota Black Hills*. The 2020 Townley Award is awarded to Khaled Bloom for his article "*Why Didn't They Do Something about It?*": *Gold vs. Grain in Post WW2 California*.

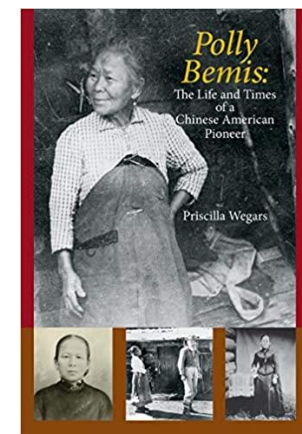
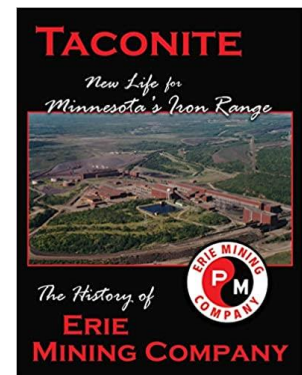
The Association recognizes mining history books in two categories. The **Clark Spence Award** recognizes the best book in mining history based on the high academic standards of the award's namesake. The **Mary Spence Documentary Book Award** recognizes books that are edited works, compilations of documents, significant photographic histories, or related genres. The covers of the winning books are to the right.

The **Clark Spence Award Committee** also extended a special recognition to Roger Burt for his book *Miners, Mariners & Masons, The Global Network of Victorian Freemasonry* (Exeter, U.K.: University of Exeter Press, 2020)

A Clark Spence Award was presented to **Jarod Roll** for:



Mary Spence Awards were presented to **St. Louis County Historical Society** and **Priscilla Wegars** for the following works:



The *Clark Spence Award Committee* also recognized **Duane A. Smith** for *Lifetime Achievement*. This most deserved of recognitions is due Duane as he has authored or co-authored more than fifty books on Colorado and the West with many of those books covering various aspects of mining history.

The *Besleme-Orrell Heritage Award* recognizes outstanding achievements that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of our mining heritage. The **St. Louis County Historical Society** in Duluth, Minnesota received the Besleme-Orrell Heritage Award for its work with former employees and volunteers in the Erie Mining Company History Project Team in preparing exhibits and interpretive venues of the now closed Erie Mining Company.

The MHA presented a new award this year. The *John Livermore Award* is given in recognition of philanthropy and public service related to mining, reclamation and environmental stewardship, education and/or historical preservation. The first ever John Livermore Award was given to **Ann Carpenter**. Ann is a member of the mining and exploration community and serves as Trustee and Chair of the Foundation Board of Trustees of the Tonopah Historic Mining Park.

The *Cherry Hunter (Mining Art) Award* honors both its namesake and the award recipient whose works show outstanding commitment to and skill in recording mining history through graphic arts. The MHA was unable to award a Cherry Hunter Award due to COVID travel restrictions.

The MHA Council also approved the creation of a new award for the 2022 Convention. The *Keith Long Best Presentation Award* will recognize the best presentation given during the 2022 MHA Convention and each thereafter.

Please submit nominations for these awards to the award committees throughout the year so we can continue to recognize great projects and people as part of MHA Conference.

Research Grants

The Grants Committee screened the many applications down to three which were funded and announced during our Awards Banquet.

Ph.D student **Sreeparna Chatterjee** of Pondicherry University in India is receiving a \$750 grant to travel to Lancashire and London in support of her project “Labouring Women in Colonial Bengal: A Case Study of Raniganj Coalfields, 1901-1947 C.E.”

Ph.D. student **Gwendolyn Lockman** at the University of Texas is receiving a \$750 travel grant to travel to Montana in support of her project “Recreation and Reclamation: Mining, Parks, and Public Space in Butte, MT.”

Ph.D. student **Hayden L. Nelson** of the University of Kansas is receiving a \$750 travel grant to travel to Colorado in support of his project “West of Bleeding Kansas: The Pike’s Peak Gold Rush, Settle Violence, and Indigenous Resistance in Kanas Territory’s Front Range.”

Thank you to our Grants Committee for the work in selecting these fine projects

Attention Potential Vendors

The MHA will be meeting in Birmingham, Alabama at the Hilton Birmingham UAB from June 23-26, 2022. On Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24, vendor tables will be available at \$35 per table in a location adjacent to the session rooms.

The Conference attracts people from across the U.S. and world that interested in mining books, artifacts and other collectible items. Persons interested in being a vendor should contact Jim Day at dayjs@montevallo.edu

Convention Highlights

Thank you to our wonderful Elko planning committee for being so adaptable and committed to providing us the opportunity to experience mining history in Nevada. Great job Richard Reid, Robert McQueen, Dana Bennett, Jenny Hildebrand, and Dean Heitt!!

Even though we were unable to meet in person, the MHA provided wonderful learning opportunities as usual. We were even able to see things via video in the Cortez District we would likely have not been able to see in person. Robert McQueen's video presentation on the Cortez District really gave a great perspective on the written detail in the book he co-wrote on the Cortez District.

The MHA offered some great educational opportunities through its presentations. Thank you to our program coordinator Eric Nystrom for technology guru Barbara Clement for getting us all on the zoom platform.

Through our presenters we had the opportunity to view the opening of a poke recovered from the S.S. Central America. The *Ship of Gold* certainly lived up to its nickname. Thank you to our presenters for putting that nickname in perspective for us.

A zoom conference also gave us an incredible opportunity to see parts of the amazing collection at the W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum at the University of Nevada, Reno. Thank you to Garrett Barmore for sharing parts of the collection. What great examples of mining history in the Nevada region including important samples and examples from the Carlin Trend. If you enjoyed his presentation, consider subscribing to his weekly "Mineral Monday" video at <https://www.unr.edu/mackay/keck-museum/mineral-monday>

Our Friday presentations reflected the variety of interests of our membership with a large focus on mining in the Nevada area including charcoal production, managing the many corporate entities connected to Newmont, genealogical connections to mining, and uranium mining in the Grants District. Showing the broad spectrum of mining

interests, Alexandria Penn's presentation on Cleveland Cliff's visiting nurse program illustrated company support for miners and their families but also an interesting connection to our recent pandemic experiences to the range's reaction to the Spanish Flu.

Saturday's presentations kicked off with Ginny Kilander presenting unique documentary views of early Tonopah and Peter Maciulaitas showing early discovery and development of Nevada's gold districts. Additional topics included Kaiser Steel's Eagle Mountain Mine in California, Civilization's Effect on Mining, and Changing Political Ideologies in a Montana Mining Town. James Day finished out the presentations with an overview of next year's Conference in Alabama including potential tours of the Tannehill Ironworks, Brierfield Furnace and Sloss Furnaces. Mark your calendars for June 23 to 26 in 2022.

If you were unable to attend or missed a session, some of our presenters have graciously allowing their presentations to be uploaded to the MHA youtube channel. Links to individual presentations can be found on the MHA Facebook Page. As a starting point, the link to Virtual Tour of the Cortez Mining District is <https://youtu.be/0jgV4jYt8qY>

Calling All MHA Authors

The Mining History News includes a section in the Fall issue highlighting mining books written by our members during the past year or two. These announcements supplement but do not replace the traditional list of publications and book reviews in the Mining History Journal and serve as an additional a way to bring your work to the attention of the entire membership of the MHA.

In order to participate, please send the complete bibliographic information (author, title, publisher, publisher location and year, number of pages, binding, price and ISBN) plus a 100-150 word summary to Paul Spyhalski at prspyhal@yahoo.com. Please include "MHA" at the start of the subject line. The deadline for inclusion in the Fall issue is September 1st.

Cortez District Presentation

Robert McQueen graciously provided a few of the photos used during his presentation for use in the newsletter.



Bruckner's roasting cylinders at the Tenabo Mill.



The Menardi Mill in 2013.


In Memorium

We note and honor the life and research of MHA member ***Susan Marie Vetter*** who passed away on May 4, 2021. Susan wrote the centennial history of Spokane's Northwest Mining Association as part of a Washington State University Public History Grant. Her master's thesis and Ph.D. dissertation also included topics relating to Spokane and Idaho's "Silver Valley. Susan shared her passion for history teaching at numerous colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest.

MHA Nuggets

Join us for MHA Nuggets the third Tuesday of the month on Zoom. Each Nuggets includes a mining related presentation and social time to spend with your MHA friends!

MHA Nuggets	8:00 pm Eastern 7:00 pm Central 6:00 pm Mountain 5:00 pm Pacific
August 17	
September 21	5 minutes of social time
October 19	20/25 minute presentation
November 16	Questions/social time
Zoom Meeting Number Below, Passcode: MHA OR LiveStream on YouTube Mining History Association channel	



We also have openings for talks. Your topic doesn't have to be academic. Topics can include a visit to a historic mining site or town or an interesting little topic that you happened to find out about. Send an email to mininghistoryassociation@gmail.com if you would like to present an MHA Nugget in the future. Upcoming topics include:

"Crown Point: Uranium Mine Development using Big Hole Drillings Techniques"

August 17, 2021 at 07:00 PM Central Time
Meeting ID: 854 2668 9874, Passcode: MHA

"Colorado Gold and Silver Booms and Busts, 1858-2020"

September 21, 2021 at 07:00 PM Central Time
Meeting ID: 891 5768 4994, Passcode: MHA

TBA

October 19, 2021 at 07:00 PM Central Time
Meeting ID: 840 6273 9268, Passcode: MHA

TBA

November 16, 2021 at 07:00 PM Central Time
Meeting ID: 823 0287 5490, Passcode: MHA

The presentations will also be livestreamed on YouTube during the presentation and also recorded for later viewing on the Mining History Association YouTube channel. To utilize the chat features or ask questions during or after the program, you should login using Zoom.

With the passing of the Presidential Pick. your MHA Officers, Council, Board and Committee Members are officially:

Officers

Eric Nystrom, President
John C. Stewart, Vice President (President-Elect)
Stephanie Saager-Bourret, Past President
James E. Fell, Treasurer
Brian Leech, Secretary

Council Members

Ron Brown	2021-2124
Lynn Langenfeld	2021-2124
Eric Clement	2021-2124
Robert McQueen	2021-2124
Fred Barnard	2019-2022
Lorena Campuzano-Duque	2019-2022
John Koerth	2019-2022

Board Members

Eric Clements	Journal Editor
Barbara Clements	Journal Compositor / Social Media
Fred Barnard	Membership Chair
Michael Kaas	Website Coordinator
Paul Spyhalski	Newsletter Editor

Nominating Committee

John Baeten
Ginny Kilander
Stephen Hart

Budget and Finance Committee

Jay Fell, Chair ex officio
Lynn Langenfeld
Bob Spude
John Stewart
Mark Vendl
Stan Dempsey

MHA Distinguished Service Award Committee

Ed Raines, Chair
Mark Langenfeld

Editorial Board / John Townley Award Committee

Duane Smith, Chair
Silvia Pettem
Ron Brown
Jay Fell
Ron Limbaugh
Jeremy Mouat
Mark Vendl

Rodman Paul Award Committee

Johnny Johnson, Chair
Duane Smith
Karen Vendl

Clark Spence and Mary Spence Award Committee

Ron Brown, Chair
Robert Spude
David Wolff

Cherry Hunter Award

Mark Langenfeld, Chair
Lynn Langenfeld
Mark Vendl
Karen Vendl
Silvia Pettem

Besleme-Orrell Heritage Award Committee

Robert Spude, Chair
Ginny Kilander
Stephanie Saager-Bouret

Research Grants Committee

Brian Leech, Chair
Mica Jorgenson
Eric Nystrom

Thank you to all who are willing to serve the MHA as officers, board members and committee members. The MHA's grateful thanks also go out to those that have completed their terms and the many that continue to serve the MHA in so many ways.

Mining History Association
1835 Alkire Street
Golden, CO 80401

Upcoming Events

Western History Association Conference

Portland, Oregon
October 27-29, 2021

Australasian Mining History Conference

Burra, South Australia
Sept. 27 to Oct. 3, 2021

National Miner's Day

December 6, 2021

Mining History Association Conference

Birmingham, Alabama
June 23-26, 2022

International Mining History Conference

Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario
June 20-23, 2020

The *Mining History News* is published quarterly by and for the members of the **Mining History Association**. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged.

Deadlines: Fall issue: September 15th
 Winter issue: December 15th
 Spring issue: February 15th
 Summer issue: June 15th

Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to Paul R. Spyhalski at prspyhal@yahoo.com with MHA at the start of the subject line.

Change of address: Please send all address changes to Fred Barnard, Membership Chair, at the following address:

Mining History Association
1835 Alkire Street
Golden, CO 80401