



Fall 2017

Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

Deadwood-Lead and Deep History

To kick off this fall 2017 address, I begin by highlighting a number of important general updates and announcements, followed by some thoughts on next year's conference in the Black Hills.

First, let us recognize that the MHA is moving forward in several very positive directions. We have listened to local and international members, several whom at Fairbanks mentioned how inconvenient it is to pay for MHA membership and conference without a credit card option. Jay Fell and Ruth Zelewski have been pushing ahead to establish a PayPal connection. It has required a lot of work on both Jay's and Ruth's part. Being able to use PayPal will represent an important step in modernizing the MHA. It might just help keep and gain MHA members. Many people no longer have phones attached to land lines and an increasing number of people no longer use check books, particularly younger people. Thanks to Jay's and Ruth's efforts, making payments will soon become easier.

As you may have heard, long-time MHA Membership Chair, Diane Dudley, has stepped down. Many thanks to Diane for ten years of superb service! The Membership Chair will be in transition the next couple of quarters as membership records are transferred and Rebecca Lange takes the reins of the Membership stage coach. Thank you, Rebecca! You made my day at the business meeting in Fairbanks when I asked if anyone would volunteer to be the new Membership Chair and your hand immediately flew up!

As a result, the MHA website will sport updated membership applications and contact information. Keep in mind that this is a period of transition. Going forward the address for membership applications, donations, and information is:

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 6356
Boise, ID 83707

On the conference front, David Wolff, Bob Otto, and Carolyn Weber have put themselves to work with preparations for the Black Hills Conference, June 6-10, 2018, in Deadwood-Lead, South Dakota. I'd like you all to come up to Deadwood-Lead for a great conference and the chance to meet old and new mining history friends. Conference planning is a lot of work; setting up programs, finding conference space, hotel accommodations, arranging bus transportation and much, much more. Oh and finding the money to do all this. The MHA would like to thank Barrick Gold for the \$1,000 donation to help make this conference possible.

Starting with this newsletter and continuing over the next two quarters, you will be given increasingly more detailed information regarding tours, field trips, events, accommodation choices, and interesting sites to see during your conference visit. Please go to the MHA website to find a wealth of new information, not only about the conference, but also about the surrounding region as well. Look to the website for useful links to help plan your trip. Many thanks to web master, Mike Kaas!

Deadwood History ... Deep and Wide

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Now some thoughts and personal reflections on Deadwood and the surrounding area.

When people think of the Black Hills, most might just think of gold, Homestake, and Wild Bill Hickock. In fact, there is much more to this region's mining history. I would like you to think of the Black Hills in a broader context, not solely the mountain range but the vast plains that surround them.

I once lived in Newcastle, Wyoming, just south of "The Hills". That was back in the peak days of frenzied uranium exploration in the area around where Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska meet. The initial uranium discovery was made in 1952. Several surface mining operations were once active in what became the Edgemont mining district. Open pit mining was replaced by in-situ uranium mining later on. In-situ mining still exists close to Harrison in Sioux County, Nebraska.

Here the plains meet the tree covered Pine Ridge, and the sculpted rock formations of the Hatfield Breaks which lies to the north. Near Dewey, SD, an in-situ uranium mine is currently in the permitting and review stages. I worked at Dewey when it was a prospect back in '69. Taking a prospect to proven ore reserve to a producing mine is often a long and difficult road with many a rider shot over his or her horse. That was the case at Dewey back in the summer of '69.

Coal mining is another part of the region's history. Today, Wyoming is the largest producer of coal in the United States (more than 350 Million tons annually). Coal, necessary for railroad expansion to the northwest, gold mine and mill development, and the transport of supplies and agri-cultural products, was discovered on the southwest edge of the Black Hills.

In 1887, the town of Cambria, Wyoming was built near coal deposits. Shortly thereafter Newcastle, Wyoming was developed as a railroad and supply center. These town names, Cambria and Newcastle, harken back to the great coalfields of northeastern England. The state of Wyoming's name has its origin in the Wyoming Valley, located in the Pennsylvania's anthracite coal mining region. My paternal grand-parents immigrated to Pennsylvania from Lithuania, and my grandfather worked in the coal mines.

In future newsletters, I'll tell you more ways to enjoy your trip to the Black Hills conference. Take two or three weeks if you can. Stay in the officers' or enlisted men's quarters at Fort Robinson, ND, where Crazy Horse was killed. Rent a horse there and ride where the Lakota Sioux camped and hunted. See buffalo herds, elk, and wild turkey. Camp in the Sand Hills where water fowl gather at the many small lakes. There is much to see in this country, both in "The Hills" and around them. If you bring along a GPS you can navigate the country roads and see the rural towns and villages that most urban Americans never see.

Keep an eye on the the MHA website over the coming months for useful tips. Looking forward to seeing you all in Deadwood-Lead or on a country road leading there.

Peter Maciulaitis, President

Recent Book Publications by MHA Members

Historical Archaeology in the Cortez Mining District: Under the Nevada Giant

By: Erich Obermayr and Robert W. McQueen
Publisher: University of Nevada Press
Location: Reno, Nevada
Year: 2016.
Pages: 184pp., 63 Figs., 1 table, index.
Price: \$39.95; hardcover.
ISBN 978-1-943859-22-1.

The Cortez Hill Expansion Project archaeological excavations uncovered a wealth of information about the Cortez Mining District, from its beginning in 1863 to the government-mandated end of precious metals mining during World War II. Obermayr and McQueen use archaeological data as a foundation to tell the story of life in one of Nevada's most intriguing, long-lived mining districts.

Archaeologists excavate and analyze many thousands of artifacts, uncovering the homes and workplaces—and even trash dumps—of prospectors and miners, mill workers, charcoal burners, brick makers, blacksmiths, teamsters, and families. They present an archaeological view of everyday life: how Cortez was populated by a variety of ethnic groups, how they lived, what products they bought or consumed, and what their social status was, and how, even in this remote location, their lives reflected the era's Victorian ideals.

Readers interested in the archaeology of the West, mining history, and the history of Nevada will find this book fascinating.

Captain Bagot's Mine: Kapunda Mine, 1844-1916

By: Gregory J. Drew
Publisher: The author
Location: Adelaide, South Australia
Year: 2017
Pages: 192
Price: \$49.95 Aust; hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-646969-49-7

The Kapunda Mine commenced operations in January 1844, just seven years after the British colony of South Australia was proclaimed. It was to be the first successful mine in Australia, predating the much larger Burra Mine by almost two years. The mine was rich from the outset, which enabled the development of the mine to be funded from the sale of ore.

At an international level, the mining settlements which developed around the mine played an important role in the Cornish transnational identity. It was the first mine in Australia to employ Cornish miners and Cornish mining technology on a significant scale. The first Cornish beam engine in Australia was erected at Kapunda in 1848 and the majority of its managers, engineers and miners were Cornish. It also erected one of the earliest copper smelters in Australia.

In Captain Bagot's Mine, Greg Drew has prepared an engaging essay, capturing every turn in the legal, technical, financial, and social aspects of this piece of Australian history. To order a copy, contact author by email at gldrew@intermode.on.net.

Recent Publications Continued ...

Sun Dogs and Yellowcake: Gunnar Mines – A Canadian Story

By: Patricia Sandberg
 Publisher: Crackingstone Press
 Location: Vancouver, BC
 Year: 2016
 Pages: 258
 Price: \$24.95 Cdn; soft cover
 ISBN: 978-0-9952023-0-6

Canada's "Father of Uranium," Gilbert LaBine, built North America's first uranium mine near the Arctic Circle. This mine helped end World War II; his next, Gunnar Mines, fed the Cold War. Immigrants fleeing post-war Europe and job-seeking southerners flocked to Gunnar, joining the area's First Nations and Métis. They found adventure, romance, tragedy, and a freedom never again to be equaled. Meanwhile, lamps made of uranium drill core sat in their homes and their children played at the tailings pond.

Patricia Sandberg relied on her family's thirty-year history working at mines run by LaBine and interviews of over 150 people to write *Sun Dogs and Yellowcake*.

Part memoir, part oral history, *Sun Dogs and Yellowcake* is a thoughtful and often humorous account of a largely forgotten era.

"An impressive work of scholarship that illuminates an important part of Canada's past." -Kirkus Reviews

The Cornish in Latin America: 'Cousin Jack' and the New World

By: Sharron P. Schwartz
 Publisher: Cornubian Press
 Location: Bristol, UK
 Year: 2016
 Pages: 640 pages
 Price: £28; soft cover

In *The Cornish in Latin America*, mining migration specialist Dr Sharron P. Schwartz, has produced an exhaustively researched but thoroughly readable work which recounts in detail how the Latin American mining fields of Peru, Mexico, Chile, Cuba, Brazil and elsewhere became established, or were reshaped through the application of Cornish skills and technology, allied with British capital. Not content with documenting the impacts of the Cornish in communities throughout Latin America, Dr. Schwartz also addresses the effects that this migration had on the many towns and villages across Cornwall from whence the migrants came.

"In this new and comprehensive study Sharron Schwartz stands considerably apart from her predecessors. A Redruth girl herself, her prime concern is with her fellow-Cornish overseas in Latin America; their adventures and achievements, their families, descendants and associates, their legacies matching those of the Scots in New Zealand or the Welsh in Patagonia." - The late Professor Charles Thomas

This publication addresses a glaring gap in the literature covering Cornish-related migration studies. But more importantly, it demonstrates the significant Cornish contribution to the British development of nineteenth century Latin American mining resources, thus ensuring that the labour migrants from this small and remarkable region of Britain are finally recognised for their involvement in this process.

**Call for Presentations:
29th Annual Conference
Mining History Association**

7-10 June 2018
Deadwood, South Dakota

The Program Committee of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual presentations or complete sessions (includes chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history.

Sessions normally include three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no temporal or geographic limits. Presentations that address mining history in the Black Hills and the Northern Rockies are particularly welcome.

Proposals should include title of presentation, an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each presentation, plus biographical information about each presenter, including mailing/email address. Please send the written proposals via email attachment to David Wolff by January 1, 2018. Submission by email is required.

The Program Committee for the MHA's 2018 Deadwood conference consists of: Brian Leech (Chair), Robert L. Spude, Bob Otto, and David Wolff.

David Wolff, MHA—Deadwood
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Please visit MHA website for updates and further details:
<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/BlackHillsConference2018.htm>

Attention MHA Conference Vendors!

The Mining History Association will be meeting in Deadwood, June 7-10, 2018. On Friday and Saturday, June 8 & 9, vendor tables will be available at \$50 per table in a location adjacent to the conference rooms. The MHA Conference attracts people from the United States and other countries who have an interest in mining-related books, artifacts, and other collectible items. MHA meetings generally attract upwards of 150 people.

Interested vendors should contact David Wolff: davidwolff@spe.midco.net or 605-644-0375 by May 1, 2018.

Announcement: New Membership Chair

Members may have heard at the Alaska conference that MHA Membership Chair, Diane Dudley, serving from 2007 to 2017, is stepping down. Kudos to Diane for ten years of superb service. The Membership Chair duties will be in transition the next couple of quarters as Rebecca Lange takes on these tasks.

Soon, the MHA website will sport updated membership applications and contact information. The new address for membership application and information is:

*Mining History Association,
P.O. Box 6356,
Boise, ID 83707.*

For any questions about membership, please email lange020414@yahoo.com.

Arizona Mining History Sources Available!

From Eric Nystrom

A valuable deposit of Arizona mining history source documents has been digitized and made available online by the Arizona Geological Survey (AZGS). The collection includes some 21,000 files pertaining to mining properties large and small across the state, including 8,500 reports, 6,800 maps, and 5,500 photographs. Files about individual mines may contain multiple items, including historic correspondence, maps, geological information, photographs, newspaper clippings, operation/production records, and more. The files can be searched and downloaded at: <http://minedata.azgs.az.gov>

The files began as part of the collections of the Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources, which since its inception in the late 1930s actively collected maps, photos, and manuscript records from mining operations, primarily in Arizona. Documents were donated by operators, consulting engineers, geologists, prospectors, and many others, and were organized by property name as well as geographic location. When that department was consolidated with the Arizona Geological Survey in 2011, the manuscript collections were saved and transferred to AZGS, who created inventories and finding aids. The largest collections, of mine information, photographs, and maps, were chosen for digitization and uploaded to the site in 2014.

The collections are searchable by property name, location, and other keywords. AZGS staff is also willing to perform more advanced searches if needed. The AZGS is keenly interested to increase awareness and use of the collections by historians, other scholars, and the general public, in addition to geologists and mining industry professionals. Please contact Mike Conway, Chief of the Geologic Extension Service of the AZGS (fmconway@email.arizona.edu), with any suggestions to improve the site's usefulness, and to share any work that utilized the collections. If you know of any similar collections for other states, please contact Eric Nystrom (eric.nystrom@asu.edu).

“Strike it Rich, Prospecting in the Black Hills”
Harper’s Weekly, 12 August 1876



Mining History Association
P.O. Box 6356
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Upcoming Events

Western History Association Conference
1-5 November 2017
San Diego, CA

Prospectors and Developers Assoc of Canada
4-7 March 2018
Toronto, Canada

Mining History Association Conference
7-10 June 2018
Deadwood, ND

The World Mining Congress
19-22 June 2018
Astana City, Kazakhstan

2019 Mining History Association Conference
5-9 June 2019
Marquette, MI

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*. 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 Nathan Delaney, nathan.delaney@case.edu,

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

Change of Address: Please send all address changes to Rebecca Lange, Membership Chair, at:

Mining History Association
c/o Rebecca Lange
P.O. Box 6356
Boise, Idaho 83707
Lange020414@yahoo.com.