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## Book Reviews

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Fawn-Amber Montoya and Karin Larkin (eds.). *Communities of Ludlow: Collaborative Stewardship and the Ludlow Centennial Commemoration Commission*. Louisville, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2022; 251 pp., 26 b&w illus., notes, ref., 5 append., ind., cloth, \$37.95. ISBN: 9781646422272

*Communities of Ludlow* records the collaborative spirit of various groups to form a grassroots committee dedicated to commemorating the history of the Ludlow Massacre in southern Colorado. For over a hundred years, people have gathered at the Ludlow Massacre Memorial site to remember the dead and recognize its place in labor history. For the last twenty years historians and archeologists, descendants, the union, and local and state agencies have come together to keep its history alive and illustrate its relevance in U.S. history. This book is the result of the community efforts of the Ludlow Centennial Commemoration Commission.

The southern Colorado coal strike that resulted in the Ludlow Massacre occurred during a turbulent era of U.S. labor history. The southern coalfield supplied high-grade bituminous coal to the steel industry. In 1913, Colorado was the eighth greatest coal-producing state in the United States. The largest corporation leading the industry in the state was the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I) based in Pueblo. Reportedly ten per cent of Colorado's population depended upon CF&I for employment, with approximately fourteen thousand men employed as miners.

CF&I politically controlled Colorado's southern coal counties of Las Animas and Huerfano. Most miners lived in company towns and houses. Community leaders such as shop owners, school-

teachers, clergy, doctors, and law enforcement were company employees. As in many U.S. coal mines, dangerous conditions resulted in many deaths. However, Colorado mines were among the most dangerous in the nation. Because the rule of law was so closely governed by the company, court cases rarely ruled against CF&I.

The United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) rallied miners in Colorado's northern (Boulder County) and southern coalfields between 1910 and 1913, striking when mine operators refused to negotiate for better wages and labor reforms. In 1913, approximately 90 percent of the coal workforce went on strike. The coal companies evicted striking miners and their families who in turn formed tent colonies.

Ludlow, in Las Animas County, was the largest colony with about two hundred tents for twelve hundred miners and their families. Tensions escalated as fall turned to winter despite the appearance of the Colorado National Guard, which essentially declared martial law. The strikers held their ground into April 1914, culminating in the tragic events that led to the death of sixty-six individuals, including twelve children and two women.

The editors of *Communities of Ludlow* suggest the tragedy galvanized U.S. public opinion by shining a light on corporations and their actions, and symbolized the "wave of industrial violence" of that era that led to labor reforms. Historian Elizabeth Jameson states that the UMWA recognized the importance of the site, buying the land in 1915 and dedicating the monument in 1918, its memory kept alive by union faithful and lineal descendants.

The book outlines recent efforts to bring together collaborative scholarship and stewardship

to recognize the historical significance of Ludlow in preparation for the tragedy's centennial. It is divided into three sections: Continuing Ludlow, Remembering Ludlow, and Teaching Ludlow. In the first section, lineal descendants and local community members give voice to the people of Ludlow, describing family and community gatherings to pay homage to those lost. The gatherings also became a time to celebrate their shared life experiences, including their labors related to the social and political effort to erect a monument and garner historical recognition.

Section two, Remembering Ludlow, explores academic and scholarly collaboration to present the importance of social memory through preservation of memory. Working together, historians, archeologists, authors, playwrights, artists, and composers have illuminated the massacre's historical significance with narratives, plays, music, and exhibits. Scholars collaborated to gather oral histories and conduct scholarly research to place the event in the context of its national importance. Deeply personal relationships developed between community and academia.

Part three, Teaching Ludlow, explores the "goal of education in the spirit of collaboration." Three essayists offer tips and strategies, as well as cautionary tales, for practicing public scholarship. With money provided by endowments and grants, summer teachers' institutes train teachers who—along with traveling trunks and exhibits—currently present labor history in Colorado to elementary and high school students. Even so, a survey by one essayist found that labor history continues to be marginalized in college-level history textbooks. Another explains how he has taken the Ludlow story into the digital realm to allow virtual visits to the site. This virtual mapping opens the site to the world.

In *Communities of Ludlow*, editors Fawn-Amber Montoya and Karin Larkin present a well-written collection of essays to guide others who are interested in collaboration to further the story of mining and labor history. While the history of

the creation of the commemoration commission can be dry, the individual stories of the participants provided by their descendants are compelling. The appendices contain documents relating to the creation and tasks of the Centennial Commemoration Commission. Illustrations highlight the site, the memorial, and the people who played a significant role.

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Brad T. Clark and Pete McCormick (eds.). *Gold Metal Waters: The Animas River and the Gold King Mine Spill*. Louisville, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2021; 300 pp., 10 b&w photos, 5 maps, 4 tbls., 10 figs., notes, ref., ind., cloth, \$45. ISBN: 9781646421749

*Gold Metal Waters* is a must read for anyone interested in the problem of acid mine drainage in the American West. Editors Brad Clarke and Pete McCormick have used a multidisciplinary approach to understanding the 5 August 2015 unintentional release of over three million gallons of underground mine water from the Gold King Mine on Cement Creek north of Silverton, Colorado. The water released contained over 880,000 pounds of heavy metals which turned the water in the Animas River a golden-yellow color from Silverton into New Mexico. The editors have included the works of twenty-four multidisciplinary authors.

The introduction provides an overview of hard rock mining in Colorado and a detailed history of the Gold King Mine from its founding in 1887 through the most recent spill in 2015. The terms "acid mine drainage" (AMD) and "acid rock drainage" (ARD) are defined, and the problems for the river environment caused by each are discussed.

The Animas River is divided into upper and lower watersheds. The upper watershed begins with the source of Animas River near Animas