Recent Publications on the History of Mining

Compiled by Lysa Wegman-French

The following bibliography contains books, dissertations and theses, articles and chapters, and other media—organized within those four categories—that relate to the history of all types of mining in North America (Canada, the United States, and Central America). It does not include book review articles. We thank all the members who have sent in contributions, and welcome suggestions for our next compilation.

Books:


Dunn, Joe P. “I have Done the Work”: *The Times and Life of James Hutchison Kerr*. Cape Girardeau: Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2014. [His many faceted life included metallurgy and mining engineering in the 1800s.]


Faucher, Alexandre. *De l’Or . . . Et Des Putes? [Gold . . . and Whores?]*. Rouyn-Noranda, Québec: Éditions du Quartz, 2014. [Roc d’Or, a mining village in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue district in Québec, populated by squatters from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s.]


García Cortés, Adrián. *Crónicas Mineras [Mining Chronicles].* (2nd ed.) México: Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, 2013. [Cosala Mining District, Mexico.]


Harper, David. *Roadside Geology of New Jersey*. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press, 2013. [Includes bog iron deposits used to produce cannonballs for the Revolutionary War, fluorescent minerals, and uranium mining.]


Hooker, Patty. *Moccasins, Mining and Montanna’s 34th County: A Centennial Celebration of Stillwater County*. Virginia Beach, VA: Donning, [2013]. [Chromite, palladium, and platinum mining.]


trial lawyers facing down Massey Energy to protect the safety of West Virginia coal miners.]


Lesniak, D. J. *Let the Mountains Remember: Campaign against the Northern Paiute of Eastern Oregon, 1861-1869*. Bend, OR: Maverick Publications, 2014. [Protecting travel on the roads leading to the 1860s gold mines.]


Recent Publications


Sheperek, Michael. *A Brief History of the Rico Colorado Medallions.* N.p.: TheBookPatch [sic], 2013. [In the mid-1970s, the Rico Argentine Mining Company leached old mine dumps then sold medallions created from the silver.]


Solorzano, Armando. *We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe / Recuerdo, Celebración, y Esperanza: Latinos in Utah.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2014. [This bilingual book contains oral histories and extensive photographs; includes a chapter on Latino miners, 1912-1945.]


Switzer, Ronald R. *The Steamboat Bertrand and Missouri River Commerce.* Norman, OK: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2013. [Bound for the goldfields of Montana with supplies, *Bertrand* sank in the Missouri River in 1865; excavated in 1968, the cargo was remarkably well preserved.]


Whisonant, Robert C. *Arming the Confederacy: How Virginia’s Minerals Forged the Rebel War Machine*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2015. [Also an e-book. Niter, lead, salt, iron, and coal mines were targets of the Union Army.]


Wilson, Elizabeth Jill. *Spilman Thomas and Battle’s History of Service: The First 150 [sic]*. Charleston, WV: Spilman Thomas and Battle, 2014. [The law firm represented many coal companies, including in the pivotal Red Jacket case in the West Virginia coal mine wars of the 1920s.]


Dissertations and Theses:


Barnett, Engrid N. “Rockin’ the Comstock: Exploring the Unlikely and Underappreciated Role of a Mid-Nineteenth Century Northern Nevada Ghost Town (Virginia City) in the De-


Benjamin, Jeffrey L. “Sound as Artifact.” M.S. thesis, Michigan Technological University, 2013. [Sounds in the Quincy Mining Company blacksmith shop in Hancock, Michigan, in 1916.]


Bruns, Carter. “…the whole river is a bustle some about their Children, Brothers and Husbands and the rest of us about our salt: The Antebellum Industrialization of the Kanawha Valley in the Virginia Backcountry.” M.A. thesis, Western Carolina University, 2013.


Chung, Su Kim. “We Seek to Be Patient: Jeanne Wier and the Nevada Historical Society, 1904-1950.” Ph.D. diss., University of California, Los Angeles, 2015. [Amidst a broader focus, includes information on the history and preservation of mining sites.]


mid-1930s to mid-1940s in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue district of Québec.


Nepal, Harihar. “Sediment and Mercury Loads and Sources at Humbug Creek from Malakoff Diggins [sic].” M.S. thesis, California State University, 2013. [Large hydraulic mine.]


Articles and Chapters:


Atkin, Emily. “She’s Beauty and She’s Grace—She’s Miss United…Coal?” Appalachian Journal 42, no. 1 (Fall 2014-Win. 2015): 19-20. [Decline of the coal industry.]


Basso, Matt. “Locally Made: Immigrant Whiteness in Montana’s Copper Communities.” In: Jessie L. Embry and Brian Q. Cannon (eds.), Immigrants in the Far West: Historical Identities and Experiences (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2015), Ch. 7. [Also an e-book.]


Bourdon, Don. “Barkerville’s Thomas Robson Pattullo in Life and Death: The Memorial Album as Aide-Mémoire.” *BC Studies* no. 185 (Spr. 2015): 49-78. [Images of the Cariboo district, British Columbia, by photographer Frederick Dally.]


Bruce, Lorne D. “Reading Camps and Traveling Libraries in New Ontario, 1900-1905.” *Historical Studies in Education* 26, no. 2 (Fall 2014): 71-97. [Supplying books to lumber, mining, and railway workers in northern Ontario, Canada.]


Cater, Tara, and Arn Keeling. “‘That’s Where our Future Came From’: Mining, Landscape, and Memory in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.” *Etudes Inuit Studies* 37, no. 2 (Dec. 2013): 59-82. [Impact of the 1962 nickel mine closure.]

Caughlan, James W. “The Death of a Ghost Town.” *British Columbia History* 47, no. 3 (Fall 2014): 3-9. [Stanley, British Columbia.]
Charest, Michelle A. “Greeting the Silver Saloon: Building Community in the Irish Mining West.” In: Jessie L. Embry and Brian Q. Cannon (eds.), Immigrants in the Far West: Historical Identities and Experiences (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 2015), Ch. 9. [Also an e-book.]


Chung, Tzu-I. “Kwong Lee and Company and Early Trans-Pacific Trade: From Canton, Hong Kong, to Victoria and Barkerville [British Columbia].” BC Studies no.185 (Spr. 2015): 137-60.


Cooper, George M. “Railroads, Commerce, and Energy—We’ve Got Everything You Could Ever Want.” East Texas Historical Journal 52, no. 2 (Fall 2014): 39-48. [Milam County, Texas, since 1839, including coal mining.]


Evans, Barry. “The La Grange Mine.” Humboldt Historian 61, no. 3 (Fall 2013): 30-5. [Hydraulic mining at Oregon Mountain, California.]


Flores Clair, Eduardo. “Los Espacios de la Fortuna: Reales Mineros Novohispanos [Spaces of Fortune: Real Miners in New Spain.]” Istor 14, no. 56 (Mar. 2014): 165-86. [Spanish contact with indigenous peoples in the early mining centers of Mexico.]


Grek-Martin, Jason. “Survey Science on Trial: The Geographic Contours of Geology’s Practical Science Debate in Late Victorian Canada.” Journal of Historical Geography 45 (July 2014): 1-11. [Controversy in 1884 over whether the Canadian government should focus on theoretical contributions to geology or on mineral deposits.]


Jones, Diana.  “Writing ‘Henry Russell’s Last Words.’”  *Goldenseal* 40, no. 3 (Fall 2014): 48-9.  [Writing a song about the 1927 Everettville, West Virginia, coal mining accident.]


Livingston, Louis B. “Theodore Roosevelt, a Civil War General, and the Battle for Labor Peace.” *Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal* 34, no. 4 (Fall 2013): 6-17. [The president’s plan for the army to seize and operate the coal mines during the 1902 strike.]


Nida, Brandon. “Demystifying the Hidden Hand: Capital and the State at Blair Mountain [West Virginia].” *Historical Archaeology* 47, no. 3 (June 2013): 52-68.


Oosterom, Nelle. “When Torpedoes were Fired at Newfoundland.” *Canada’s History* 94, no. 6 (Dec. 2014): 13. [German attacks on ships in 1942 to block iron shipments to Great Britain.]


Parry, William T. “A Majestic Building Stone: Sanpete Oolite Limestone.” *Utah Historical Quarterly* 81, no. 1 (Win. 2013): 46-64. [Discusses Sanpete County and other quarries in Utah.]


Pizer, Donald. “John Dos Passos and Harlan: Three Variations on a Theme.” *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture and Theory* 71, no. 1 (Spr. 2015): 1-23. [Dos Passos wrote three accounts of his 1931 journey to Kentucky’s Harlan County to observe labor conditions in the coal industry.]

Plasky, Joe. “‘Worth their Weight in Gold’: Recalling Red Jacket Safety Day.” *Goldenseal* 40, no.1 (2014): 56-63. [Coal mines in Mingo County, West Virginia, 1940s-50s.]


Rieppel, Lukas. “Prospecting for Dinosaurs on the Mining Frontier: The Value of Information in America’s Gilded Age.” *Social Studies of Science* 45, no. 2 (Apr. 2015): 161-86. [The price of dinosaur bones in nineteenth century Wyoming was established in a similar fashion to other scarce natural resources dug from the ground.]


Schulten, Susan. “The Civil War and the Origins of the Colorado Territory.” *Western Historical Quarterly* 44, no. 1 (Spr. 2013): 21-46. [Creation of the territory is framed within mineral rushes in the West and the national controversy over slavery.]


Stanley, Anna. “Wasted Life: Labour, Livelihood, and the Production of Value.” *Antipode* 47, no. 3 (June 2015): 792-811. [How Dene life is connected to the Canadian uranium economy.]


Tester, Frank James, Drummond E. J. Lambert, and Lim Tee Wern. “Wistful Thinking: Making Inuit Labour and the Nanisivik Mine near Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay), Northern Baffin Island.” *Études Inuit Studies* 37, no. 2 (Dec. 2013): 15-36. [Historically hunters, Inuit were converted to wage earners.]


“There’s Gold in Them There Wells.” *Economist* 409, no. 8867 (21 Dec. 2013): 41-4. [Compares the California gold rush with recent oil and shale rushes, including conditions in boom towns.]

Tinnell, Shannon Colainni. “Gone, Not Forgotten.” *Goldenseal* 40, no. 3 (Fall 2014): 42-7. [The 1927 coal mining explosion and disaster in Everettville, Monongalia County, West Virginia.]

“Treasure Hunters: Miners of Southeast Kansas.” *Reflections* 8, no. 3 (Sum. 2014): 2-3. [Coal, zinc, and lead mined from the 1870s to the 1970s.]

Tropea, Joseph L. “Monongah Revisited: Sources, Body Parts, and Ethnography.” *West Virginia History* 7, no. 2 (Fall 2013): 63-92. [Possible misinformation in historic records about the 1907 West Virginia mine disaster.]


Weaver, Karol K. “It’s the Union Man That Holds the Winning Hand’: Gambling in Pennsylvania’s Anthracite Region.” *Pennsylvania History* 80, no. 3 (Sum. 2013): 401-19. [Late nineteenth and early twentieth century.]


Other Media:

Beraza, Susan (dir.). *Uranium Drive-in: Half Life of the American Dream*. Telluride, CO: Reelthing, 2013. DVD (70 min.). [Will a new uranium mill be built in the economically devastated mining community Naturita, Colorado? Offers a range of perspectives regarding the sacrifices we make to meet energy demands.]


Prelinger Archives. “Dawson Mine Disaster.” (Gould Collection, can no. 5253.) New York: Films for the Humanities and Sciences, and Films Media Group, 1913, 2013. DVD (17 min.). [Film taken immediately after the October 22, 1913 coal mine explosion at Dawson City, New Mexico, that killed 263 men. Shows bodies being removed, the cemetery, Bureau of Mines’ trains and experts arriving, etc. Also available on the Internet Archive at: https://archive.org]

Silva, Dolores. *Oral History Interview with Dolores Silva*. (Interview by Margaret Alfonso.) [Boulder, CO: Boulder Public Library], 2013. DVD (48 min.). [Also available on the internet. Her father and husband worked as coal miners near Lafayette, Colorado; discusses safety issues and a relative who was killed in the Monarch Mine explosion.]