

time—uranium. Much of the territory Hite tried to promote for silver or copper or gold became highly desirable as uranium claims during post-WWII uranium boom. Hite was also perhaps the first to identify oil seeps along the San Juan River at the location of the present town of Mexican Hat, Utah, yet he let this oil find pass un-promoted.

During his life, Hite covered a vast territory, from his birthplace in Illinois through most of the western U.S., with some prospecting forays into Canada and Mexico. Yet the Four Corners area seemed to have a hold on him and was where he chose to live out his years in his cabin on a large sand bar in the Glen Canyon area. Many people have crossed the Colorado River—Lake Powell since completion of the Glen Canyon Dam—at Hite, yet have no idea how the crossing, now a marina, got its name. This book presents an in-depth way of correcting one's ignorance and gaining knowledge of the area by reading the biography of a little-known prospector, pioneer, and promoter.

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Silvio Manno. *Charcoal and Blood: Italian Immigrants in Eureka, Nevada and the Fish Creek Massacre*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2016; xvi + 278 pp., 11 b&w photos, notes, 4 append., bib., ind., paper, \$30. ISBN: 9781943859009

On August 18, 1879, near Fish Creek, near Eureka, Nevada, a sheriff's posse shot and killed five Italian charcoal burners. This important and beautiful book tells the story of the events leading up to this tragedy, and of its aftermath. Silvio Manno provides excellent insight into the struggles and conflicts in a remote mining community in the late 1870s. As such his book makes a major contribution to the literature on early mining in the West, and on labor relations, immigrants, ethnic discrimination, violence, and law enforcement

on the frontier.

The brief Introduction summarizes the developments leading to the massacre. Chapter 1 sets the stage. It begins by discussing the economic situation in Northern Italy in the middle of the nineteenth century that led to large-scale emigration. Gold discovered in California, and silver in the Comstock and eventually at Eureka, brought immigrants, including a large number of Italians, to California and Nevada, with accompanying ethnic tensions and xenophobia. This chapter includes a clear explanation as to why charcoal burning was so critically important for smelting the rich but complex Eureka silver-lead ores, and why the process required such vast quantities of charcoal.

Chapter 2 focuses on early Italian immigration to Eureka, but includes a much broader overview of the wide variety of ethnicities living and working in the community. These groups usually co-existed relatively peacefully, with one major exception: extremely strong anti-Chinese actions. The expulsion of the Chinese led to the fateful consequence of Italian laborers replacing the Chinese for charcoal burning.

Chapter 3 consists of four distinct parts, each covering rather different topics. The first part is focused on Italian immigration to Eureka, covering the wide range of Italian immigrant social classes, from merchants and coal-hauling contractors to the destitute coal burners. At least part of the poverty of the last was due to the *padrone* labor contracting system, and to payment in vouchers redeemable only at certain stores where goods were sold at highly inflated prices. Although the *padrone* system is mentioned a few times, little or no detailed information about it is given: how extensive, widely practiced, was it? How intense, structured, was it?

The first part of Chapter 3 also includes further description of charcoal burning, both in pits and in kilns. The second part of this chapter deals briefly with ethnic discord. The third part concentrates on economic conditions in the town, with

emphasis on the smelting operations, and with implications for charcoal prices. The charcoal oversupply documented in the fourth part sets the stage for the conditions the charcoal burners faced when they tried to improve their lot.

The formation of the Eureka Charcoal Burners' Protective Association, a first attempt at organization, is presented in Chapter 4. While the price paid for charcoal was the main issue of concern, also very important were concerns about weight manipulation, and the script payment system—obvious reminders of parallel problems in many other mining communities in that era. Organizing some two thousand mostly illiterate Italian burners living and working in the remote inhospitable and rugged desert around Eureka, some many miles from the town, clearly presented a major challenge. As an interesting and complicating factor, for all practical purposes the burners worked as independent contractors, not employees.

Chapter 5, as tense and gripping as an outstanding mystery novel, outlines the conflicts and tensions between burners, teamsters, and smelter operators-managers-owners that eventually led to the tragedy. The escalation of the conflict is described in Chapter 6, including an interesting comment about the bitterness between the Italian burners and the area's few Italian ranch owners, certainly exacerbated by the *padrone* system. Major uncertainty arose due to the sheriff's vacillation between preferring to resolve the conflict himself versus calling on the governor to send in the state militia.

In Chapter 7 the state militia arrives. Two well-known history books seriously misstate the actual conditions in Eureka at the time, significantly overstating the severity of the conditions in the town. Manno makes it convincingly clear that Governor John Henry Kinkead's decision to send in the militia was driven largely by vastly overstated claims of unrest telegraphed to him by local authorities and leaders of the business community.

Chapter 8 expands upon the conflicts within the intra-Italian "community" in the context of the Italian Risorgimento and of Austro-Italian historical conflicts. The author recounts the disputes between the burners and affluent Italians, teamsters, ranchers, and merchants—disagreements further complicated by contentions between ethnic Italians from Switzerland and Italy.

The Fish Creek shooting is covered in Chapter 9. Arrest warrants of questionable legal validity were to be served by Deputy Sheriff J. B. Simpson, accompanied by an eight-man posse, the members of which may or may not have been legally deputized. Not surprisingly, eye witness accounts of the massacre at Fish Creek diverge. Posse members saw the firing of a shot by one of the leaders of the burners. Burners stated that the posse opened fire without provocation. Five burners died. Six, at least, were wounded. Press accounts and, especially, positions with respect to responsibility, differed similarly. Some of the local press endorsed law enforcement and the quelling of "riots;" others questioned the justification and rationale for such a dramatic action in light of the relatively modest disturbances created by the strikers.

The coroner's inquest, summarized in Chapter 10, took place within a few days of the shootings. And a rather remarkable inquest it was: only one side was heard, that of the killers. Even so, stunning inconsistencies appeared in the testimony. Collusion between vested powers, law enforcement, and the judiciary will not come as a surprise to anyone somewhat familiar with the history of the West, and the author provides an outstanding illustration of a rather extreme case. Obviously, the community of Italian burners was dismayed, but did not have much recourse, beyond an apparently dignified and strikingly large-scale funeral service.

Chapter 11 introduces the trial of the charcoal burners who had been arrested prior to the massacre. Testimony of primarily teamsters and their employees provides a lengthy list of cases

where burners had prevented coal loading. The chapter ends with an interesting overview of the grand jury's selection, and of its rather biased composition.

Chapter 12, an interlude, summarizes the inaction of the Italian consul in San Francisco. Notwithstanding an excellent report to the Italian embassy in Washington—one of the more comprehensive and evenhanded documentations of the situation and the massacre, even if somewhat biased in favor of the Italian commercial class—essentially no concrete action followed.

Chapter 13 discusses the grand jury decision in which, surprise, surprise, the posse killers were completely exonerated. Truly surprising, however, was that all the charges against the arrested charcoal burners were also dropped! In the latter part of the chapter the author argues, not entirely convincingly, that a major factor in these decisions was to minimize the cost to the county of any further trials, and, especially, their potential consequences.

The main body of the book ends rather abruptly. I wish it had contained more information about the aftermath. One has become so familiar with the protagonists, on both sides, and with the community of Eureka, that one wonders what happened to these people and to this community in the months and years after the tragedy. Information about several of the leading opponents of the charcoal burners is spread throughout the book, as several of them had distinguished careers in Nevada politics and business. But not much is included about the fate of the burners.

The concluding chapter embeds very elegantly the events in Eureka, at Fish Creek, in a broader legal context, even referring to the Constitution and the rights therein proclaimed.

In the Afterword the author describes his visits to the Eureka countryside, including Fish Creek and the town itself. One could not ask for a better historical walking tour guide. Four appendices provide reproductions of important historical documents.

Not pleasant reading. Sad. Painful. Fascinating. Revealing. Eye-opening. Manno's book should be of great interest to a broad range of potential audiences: anyone interested in life and death in a small mining community in the West during its heyday; anyone interested in the history of immigration, particularly of Italians to the West; anyone interested in the development of the labor movement; anyone interested in inter- and intra-ethnic conflicts in the West; anyone interested in law enforcement and violence in the West.

In sum, *Charcoal and Blood* deserves to be read by many people and by a great variety of people. Many readers will find it an exceedingly valuable contribution to the literature on these subjects. It provides a superb, very concrete, very local illustration of the many historical developments and themes that have formed the West, a superb interweaving of the many threads that have been woven into its historical tapestry.

Charcoal and Blood is very well researched, very well documented, and very well written. It includes eleven very well selected photographs that nicely illustrate what Eureka looked like at the time of these events, and honor Louis Monaco, the Swiss Italian photographer who also wrote and explained the dilemmas faced by the charcoal burners.

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Damian Nance and Kenneth Brown. *A Complete Guide to the Engine Houses of West Cornwall*. Lydney, Gloucestershire, U.K.: Lightmoor Press, 2014; 184 pp., 300 b&w and color illus., 10 maps, glos., ind., paper, £18. ISBN: 9781899889853 [From Lightmoor.co.uk.]

The practice of mining history differs considerably between countries. In America it is mostly concerned with the history of mining towns and regions, biographies of major mining entrepre-