



# *Mining History News*

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

Spring 2015

## **Conference Presentations as Storytelling: Using Images Effectively**

In the Winter issue, I wrote about some ideas to help plan and execute an illustrated talk, such as those we all look forward to at our annual meeting. We left off last time with ideas for creating a list of illustrations that would ideally represent all the points you want to make in your lecture.

At some point, probably early in the illustrations-list-making process, you need to start actually assembling possible illustrations. Your own photographs, postcards, books with illustrations, and the Internet as well as libraries, museums and archives are potential sources. Some would say that this is putting the cart before the horse, but the goal is to let the pictures tell the story. While sorting through these piles of illustrations, you should think what you would actually say when showing a particular picture.

When the sorting of illustrations is completed according to either a timeline or thematic arrangement of possible illustrations, then keeping in mind what you actually can say with respect to each one, try to figure out the holes in the story, or, put another way, what illustrations you need to come up with. The search for illustrations can be exasperating, and there are times when you will only be able to take the illustrations up to a single point, and then pick up on the other side. That missing illustration may be one of the few times when it is necessary to use a text slide.

While you are figuring out the holes in the story, ask yourself if a series of two, three, or more “step-by-step” illustrations will work better at

explaining some ideas, processes, or trends, than a single illustration. If so, then you need to choose a series of illustrations that will take the audience step-by-step through an explanation. Often, these types of illustrations will need to take the form of drawings, or at least a series of photos that you shoot, to show the stages involved in something that changes through time.

As an example, I was first introduced to the Pelton wheel in an MHA lecture about 20 years ago. To me it was just a fancy water wheel that had a ridge dividing the old style water wheel bucket into two cups. I certainly knew how a water wheel worked, so the Pelton wheel was just a fancy modification. When I gave the introductory lecture at the Creede Conference some seven years ago, I talked briefly about the Humphrey Mill, explaining that the whole mill operation was powered by two Pelton wheels with water brought from the Nelson Tunnel through a drainage ditch that ran under the tracks of the rail tramway from the tunnel to the mill. Water was channeled into a pipe and dropped several hundred feet to operate two Pelton wheels which powered most of the milling operation. By now I had gained an appreciation of the efficiency of the Pelton wheel, while still remaining completely ignorant of how the wheel actually worked.

It was still a water wheel to me, which meant that water dropped from above to turn the wheel through the application of the gravitational force

*Presentations... (continued on page 2)*

## Presentations...

*continued from page 1*

of falling water into the double compartmented cups along the outer surface of the wheel. I couldn't have been more wrong! The water flows from the pipe as a stream through a nozzle like device UNDER the wheel, shooting directly at the ridge between the cups. The force is equally applied as the water flows equally into each cup. The wheel operates at a remarkably high rate of close to 90% efficiency. You can go to this link on the Internet <http://youtu.be/3Oe8YAJ9eSQ> to see a Pelton wheel in operation.

The use of a few step-by-step of diagrams plus photographs of a Pelton wheel, along with several photos of the Humphrey mill, could have turned my explanations into a subplot while easing the audience through some fairly technical information.

It is possible to embed the actual video of the Pelton Wheel into a Power Point Presentation! I recommend that you stay away from this idea. Many conferences will not even allow a video in a presentation. Internet access cannot be counted on to be available or reliable in conference venues, and little in the digital world is standard—there are so many different versions using so many different standards that the chances of a video not working are high enough to urge caution.

It is not the purpose of this article to get into the mechanics of actually setting up a power point presentation. That subject is left to the guidebooks for the devices and software that are used to create digital illustrations. Whatever technology is used, however, the basic principles of conveying ideas with pictures remain consistent – and are consistently appreciated by an audience who enjoys a good story well told.

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## Readings on Virginia City Area Mining History

by Bob Spude

Anyone wanting to know the Virginia City story must begin with Ronald M. James, *The Roar and the Silence: A History of Virginia City and the Comstock Lode* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1998); as Roger Burt wrote in his 1999 MHJ review, “this is... what must now be regarded as the definitive volume on the history of the district which briefly made Nevada the mining capital of the world.” Enough said. Ron James has also expanded his exploration of Comstock history, primarily social, with an edited work on women and, another, a history through archeology and material culture: Ronald M. James and C. Elizabeth Raymond, editors, *Comstock Women: The Making of a Mining Community* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1998) and Ronald M. James, *Virginia City: Secrets of a Western Past* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2012). With his wife Susan he has also provided two popular books more for the tourist trade: Ronald M. and Susan James, *Virginia City and the Big Bonanza* (Arcadia, 2009) and Ronald M. and Susan James, *A Short History of Virginia City* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2014), both handy graphic introductions to the Comstock.

Primary sources are the meat of anyone wanting to dine on the sumptuous Comstock bibliographic feast. Again, Ron James, a prolific author of Virginia City history, with Robert Stewart provides the introduction and editing of the Grosh brothers letters and story: *The Gold Rush Letters of E. Allen Grosh & Hosea B. Grosh* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2012). Did the brothers discover the Comstock Lode before all the others? Read the book. It is also a good account of the early placer mining era, as is past MHA president Sally Zanjani's *Devils Will Reign: How Nevada Began* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2007). Everyone has to read Mark Twain's classic *Roughing It* (1872; University of California, Berkeley reprint recommended) just to get a feel for the mining fever, or at least his antics during the early Comstock days. As Otis Young wrote years ago, in *Western Mining*, “Twain's hard-rock mining experience was a compendium of everything the expert miner did not do.”

Among the original works can be considered Twain's friend and contemporary reporter William Wright, nom de plume Dan De Quille, magnum opus *The Big Bonanza: An Authentic Account of the Discovery, History, and Working of the World-Renowned Comstock Lode* (1876, reprinted often). The work is mostly clippings from columns or stories from early newspapers that have been handed down as the true history of the Comstock (and much of it refuted or modified by Ron James' work). Still, it contains worthy period descriptions, and enthusiasm. More accurate because he interviewed multiple sources and had first hand data on mining and milling operations is Eliot Lord, *Comstock Mining and Miners* (1883; reprint San Francisco: Howell North, 1959). Everyone should have a copy of this work, especially the illustrated reprint. Or, less satisfactory, is the 1883 edition of this U S Geological Survey publication easily found on-line through Google Books. In 1943 the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology issued as a bulletin Grant H. Smith's expansion on Eliot's work, and this bulletin in turn was more recently updated by Joseph V. Tingley. The revised collaborative edition appeared as, Smith and Tingley, *The History of the Comstock Lode, 1850-1997* (Reno: University of Nevada Press and Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, 1998 revised edition; original 1943), bringing the mining story up to the end of the twentieth century.

Also found on-line are many of the early travel accounts, recollections, or first histories, such as J. Ross Browne, *A Peep at Washoe* and "Washoe Revisited" in *Adventures in Apacheria* (1869); Henry DeGroot, *The Comstock Papers* (1876); Charles Howard Shinn, *The Story of the Mine: As Illustrated by the Great Comstock Lode of Nevada* (1896). But it is often far better to find a cheap paperback reprint with a good introduction, such as the reflections of an every-day woman on the Comstock brought into context, that of Mary McNair Mathews, *Ten Years in Nevada or Life on the Pacific Coast*, edited and introduced by Mary Lee and Clark C. Spence (1880, reprint with introduction, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1985).

Many of the Comstock characters were larger than life, and a stream of biographies have poured from the silver region over the past century. Many of these are journalistic products, very light and hagiographic, but recently more serious biographies have appeared. See especially recent works by Michael J. Makley: *The Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age*

*in the West* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2006) and *John Mackay: Silver King in the Gilded Age* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2009), both major Bonanza Kings whose Comstock wealth gave them influence beyond Virginia City. Similarly, the insanity of Virginia City newspaper business is exposed in Richard Dwyer and Richard Lingenfelter, *Dan De Quille: A Biography and Anthology* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1990). Still valuable are Russell R. Elliott, *Servant of Power: A Political Biography of Senator William M. Stewart* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1983) and Robert E. and M. F. Stewart, *Adolph Sutro: A Biography* (Berkeley: Howell-North Books, 1962), about the dreamer and his tunnel.

Another prolific author, Stanley Paher has done much to write and publish on Nevada history, primarily as a ghost town aficionado. A recipient of the MHA's Rodman Paul Award for his writings, his classic is: Stanley W. Paher, *Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps* (Berkeley: Howell-North, 1970; reprint Reno: Nevada Publications), worthy handbook for those interested in Nevada's mining remains left across the landscape. Supplementing this volume is Stanley W. Paher, *Nevada Ghost Towns & Desert Atlas* (Reno: Nevada Publications, revised edition 2012), with color maps and directions to mine sites and ghost towns. Stan's Nevada Publications has reprinted or offers for sale many of the early publications; see his web page: <http://www.ghosttowns.com/nevadapublications.html> One of my cherished items is a small pamphlet, autographed by the author: John M. Townley, *The Comstock Guidebook* (Reno: Great Basin Studies, 1984). An early offering for the tourist interested in seeing behind the false fronts of C Street, John was a friend and early member of the MHA, and our *Mining History Journal* founder and first editor. His essays and books reflect a potential lost by his untimely death.

To ensure that all understand that we enjoy ghost mining landscapes, but don't collect relics from "abandoned" mines sites because of the potential information they can provide, I highly recommend two example archeological studies: Kelly J. Dixon, *Boomtown Saloons: Archeology and History in Virginia City* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2005) and, of course, past MHA president Don Hardesty's classic *Mining Archeology in the American West: A View from the Silver State* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2010). Both reveal the important stories that come from the artifacts and mining features strewn across the mining landscape. Great reads all.

## Getting to Virginia City and Having Fun Along the Way

As part of the 150th Celebration of the discovery of the Comstock Lode, our friends at the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology prepared a road trip guide from Reno for the thirty miles to Virginia City. If you are arriving at the Reno airport and will drive to Virginia City we recommend taking the time to follow along and maybe make a couple stops to introduce yourself to the geology and history along the way. Their guide, "Digging Deeper into the Comstock," Educational Series E-48, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, 2009 can be downloaded as a pdf at: <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/dox/e48.pdf> (Last accessed 1 March 2015).

### Lodging

There will not be a single conference hotel. The MHA has reserved the entirety of the new **Silverland Inn & Suites** (67 rooms), 100 North E Street, Virginia City, NV 89440, at a very reasonable conference rate of \$85-145 per night depending on room amenities (mention Mining History Association when booking). Call them at the hotel at (775) 847-4484 or reservations line at 1-888-859-4119 or see their web page at: <http://www.silverlandusa.com> Also highly recommended is the historic **Gold Hill Hotel**, 1540 Main Street, Gold Hill, Nevada 89440. Call them at (775) 847-0111 or see their web page at: <http://www.goldhillhotel.net> Virginia City has nine hotels and bed & breakfasts providing a range of accommodations for our relatively small group. These can be found by calling the Visitor's Bureau 1-800-718-SLVR (7587) or on the Visitor Bureau's web page: <http://www.visitvirginiacitynv.com>

### Registration

It is highly recommended that MHA members register early because tour buses and dining room chairs often fill up quickly. Registration packets can be picked up starting at 1 p.m. Thursday at the **Fourth Ward School**, then at the **Piper's Opera House** all day Friday, and on Saturday morning at the **Gold Hill Depot**. We welcome non-members to join us by registering early as well, or at the registration desk during the conference.

### General Information

Virginia City is at an elevation of 6,220 feet, so you may have to take time to catch your breath while walking up its steep streets. In June, weather should be a pleasant 70 degrees and mild, with rare chance of rain. Dress is western casual, but for some of the tours its best to wear sturdy walking shoes and long pants. You should plan to have extra water and snacks at hand, especially for the field trips. The tours will include excursions into the desert where the usual precautions of desert travel apply – plenty of water, watch for things that prick or bite, and avoid snakes.

There is much to see in Virginia City, a living museum. The best way to orient yourself is to browse the Virginia City Tourism Commission website. They list museums, restaurants, hotels, horse carriage rides, trolley rides, maps, live web cam, news and media, events, and much more. The web page link is: <http://www.visitvirginiacitynv.com>

### Attention Conference Vendors

Tables are available for selling books and merchandise during the conference. The cost is \$25 (limited to one per vendor). For further details or to reserve a spot, contact conference chair Bob Spude: [Spudes@msn.com](mailto:Spudes@msn.com)

### Renew MHA Dues with Conference Registration

You can easily join or renew your membership on the Conference Registration Form. (The mailing label on your newsletter indicates the calendar year through which your dues are paid). Dues are \$35 per year, International \$45. We have a \$20 student rate. We are grateful to those members who renew at the Sustaining (\$60), Patron (\$100), or Corporate (\$500) membership rate. Your careful attention to dues payment helps save the MHA money for reminders—thank you!

### Meeting Venues Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Thursday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m: Registration and Council and Editorial Board Meetings, **Fourth Ward School**

The conference registration desk will be set up in the historic **Fourth Ward School Museum**. The 1876 four story Second Empire style school building is a museum open to participants. Besides a great working model of the Savage works right across the hall from the meeting rooms, there are displays about the school, mining, and

historic characters. From 1:00-4:00 the MHA Council will meet in the **Fourth Ward School Wiegand Room** and the Editorial Board will meet in the **Fourth Ward School Tea Room**. Note, the first gathering in October 1990 of the nascent MHA was in a classroom on the main floor.

**Thursday 5:00 to 7:00:** V & T Train Ride & Opening Reception at **Gold Hill Hotel** with Mr. Mark Twain

Comstock Mining Inc. and the Comstock Foundation are the generous sponsors of our opening reception starting at 5 p.m. in the historic **Gold Hill Hotel**, constructed in the early 1860s and in the heart of the one-time City of Mines over the divide from Virginia City. As a special treat, members can arrive on the Virginia & Truckee Railroad by boarding the “MHA Special” coach, which will leave the Virginia City Depot at 5:00 p.m. on the

dot, arriving at Gold Hill at 5:30, or so. Our special guest, Mr. Mark Twain, will be on board to meet and greet the crowd during the trip and at the end of our “MHA Special” at the Gold Hill Hotel (or you can stay on the train for a little more of a tour with the railroad’s geologist-conductor tour guide and return with the train as it comes back to the Gold Hill Depot). Starting at 6:00, the train and then shuttle vans at 6:30 and 7:00 will return members to the Virginia City Depot (or you can drive your own car to the 5-7 p.m. reception at the Gold Hill Hotel--if you drive to the reception early, you could, if desired, ride the train back up to Virginia City, but you’ll need to get back to your car at Gold Hill with a little help from a friend).

**Friday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.:** Registration, Sessions, and Banquet at **Piper’s Opera House** and the **Delta Saloon (Upstairs)**.

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### Conference Keepsake

#### 25th Anniversary Coin

For the 25th Anniversary Mining History Association conference everyone who registers will receive a commemorative medallion that celebrates the organization’s twenty-five years. Nevada is where, in October 1990, the MHA can be said to truly have launched itself during a portion of the Western History Association conference held at Reno and at Virginia City. In June 1991 we held our first conference in Leadville, Colorado. Around the coin’s rim are 13 stars and 1 maple leaf representing the 13 states and 1 Canadian province in which the MHA has met, 1991-2015 (can you name them all?). “Virginia City, NV 2015” on the bottom represents the location of the 2015 conference. On the reverse is the Great Seal of the State of Nevada, with its early mining scenes. Through the generous assistance of the Nevada Division of Minerals, the organizers received permission from the governor of Nevada to use the historic Nevada State Seal. The Northwest Territorial Mint of Dayton, Nevada has minted a beautiful antique medallion for us. Additional coins may be purchased for \$25.



Our first full day of events will be in the recently restored Piper's Opera House, a classic opera house of the mining camps built in 1885. The University of Nevada Press is hosting a morning coffee starting at 7:30 a.m. near the registration desk, which will also open at 7:30. Vendors will have tables in the lobby area. The opening sessions begin at 8:00 a.m. and run through the morning. Lunch is on your own, but we will be downtown with many restaurant options nearby. We reconvene at 1:00 with concurrent sessions, one group at Piper's Opera House and the other across the street at the upstairs of the Delta Saloon, which is actually at about the same level of the entrance to Piper's. Papers will conclude at 4:50, which will give participants a break before returning to Piper's for the awards banquet.

**Saturday 8:00 to 5:00:** Sessions and Presidential Lunch at Gold Hill Depot

Built for the Virginia & Truckee Railroad, the recently restored Gold Hill Depot, 1869, will be the venue for our second day of sessions, starting at 8:00 a.m., the presidential luncheon, as well as the starting point for the afternoon tour. The registration table and vendors will be in the waiting room while the sessions, followed by lunch will be held in the cavernous freight room. The afternoon session includes a video and retrospective of John Livermore. After the afternoon session and tours (described elsewhere) the business meeting will be held in the depot's freight room.

#### Optional Conference Tours

Note: All tours are on a first come first served basis. Seating will be limited by bus sizes, so please make your reservations early.

#### Thursday 9 to 11 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Walking Tour of Virginia City

Pre-conference tour—two optional tour times  
\$5 fee per tour  
Guided by Virginia City historian Ron James

From the Fourth Ward School, site of our registration set-up for the day, Ronald M. James will lead participants on a walking tour of the historic sites and structures representative of the rich cultural history of Virginia City, a National Historic Landmark. The tour will highlight the mining landscape as well as the

historic architecture, and some tall tales. The tour will not include the many museums, but they will be pointed out in order that participants may return and visit one or two or more: such as the Comstock Firemen's Museum, Comstock History Center, St. Mary in the Mountains, and the Mackay Mansion. For a technological history destination visit the Best & Belcher mine tour, which is accessed through a working saloon in the historic Bank of California building. After the morning tour, Ron will end the walk at the downtown area for those participants who wish to find a restaurant for lunch.

#### Saturday 1 to 4 p.m. Half Day Gold Hill and Comstock Mining Inc. operations tour

\$25 fee  
Includes bus transportation  
Guided by Comstock Mining Inc. staff

The tour starts at the Gold Hill Depot, right after the Presidential lunch in the depot freight room. We will divide into two groups. Each will see 1) by bus the Comstock Mining Inc pit and plant and 2) by walking tour the historic Gold Hill mining landscape and community. Their current operation has a multi-level open cut near the road; big Cats haul to the crusher, then a cyanide heap; plus concentrating and refining using the Merrill-Crowe process there. The walking tour will follow the multiple layers of mining that occurred at Gold Hill, and the visible landscapes that reveal this rich past. The depot is a stone's throw from all the one-time major buildings of Gold Hill, the historic headframe of the Yellow Jacket Mine, the Crown Point ore bins, and other historic sites of legend and lore. Again, the tour group will be split into two, half going onto the bus and half walking off with Ron James. Then they will swap places. The tours end at the Gold Hill Depot. In the depot Gwen Clancy will show her *The Eye of the Prospector*, which those who wish to take the bus mine tour but not the walking tour may watch instead while waiting.

#### Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All-Day Tour to Donovan Mill, Silver City; Bowers Mansion State Park; Washoe City site; Nevada State Museum & Mint and Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City

All Day Tour  
\$65 fee  
Includes motor coach transport and lunch  
Guided by Ron James

Note: If participants wish to they may follow the bus in their own cars and participate in museums, lunch or any portion of the tour, but we will still need to charge the full tour fee. You may depart the tour early in your own vehicle at any time, for example, to catch a plane in Reno.

Participants board the bus at the Silverland Hotel in Virginia City in time to leave at 8 a.m. for the historic Donovan Mill at Silver City. The Donovan Mill, which was photographed by HAER in 1980, has 30 stamps in good shape plus original cyanide equipment including a Merrill press, refinery, etc. The Donovan was one of the earliest cyanide mills on the Comstock, installing the process right around the turn of the 20th century. The mill was recently acquired by the Comstock Foundation which is planning to stabilize this representative mill – and welcome ideas for interpretation. From the mill we will head through Carson City to the historic Bowers Mansion, the home of a Comstock nouveau riche miner and his illustrious wife; the opulent home represents the classic tale of one of the Comstock’s early rags-to-riches (back to rags) millionaires. We will tour the home, now a county park, and have lunch on the grounds. Ron James will provide an overview of what we see of the milling and timbering operations in the Sierras and Washoe Valley around us. Our next stop is the Nevada State Museum and Mint, including its mint equipment (a still-operational 1869 coin press) and one of the best underground mine exhibits ever seen - and it was constructed by aged Comstock miners in the 1940s, so it is historic in its own right. From there we move to the Nevada State Railroad Museum with its new exhibits and impressive array of period equipment, including Virginia & Truckee locomotives that once operated on the bonanza short line. We will return to Virginia City’s Silverland Hotel by 5 p.m.

**Monday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All Day Ghost Town Tour** via carpool to Six Mile Canyon sites, Sutro, Rock Point mill site, Dayton, then to Yerington copper district, Thompson smelter town site, Anaconda pit and remnants, Mason Valley copper mines, and finally to Pine Grove ghost town.

Post-conference tour (20 car limit)  
\$25 fee

Carpool tour (We will drive on both paved state highways and reasonably good, but dusty, gravel county roads).

Tour participants will have lunch at a Yerington restaurant (not included in tour fee).

Guided by ghost town author Stan Paher and Bob Spude

On Sunday evening an optional orientation meeting will meet in the lobby of the Silverland hotel at 8 p.m. Then, the next morning, we will gather in front of the Silverland Hotel and depart at 8 a.m. down Six Mile Canyon. Our first stop will be of the ruins of the Butters Mill, then caravan to the Sutro and Dayton area. Along the Carson River were major mills for processing Comstock ore. We will stop at several sites, including the Rock Point Mill, now part of the Dayton State Park. From there we will drive over to the historic Yerington copper district, with a brief stop at the ghost town of Thompson, a smelting center named after copper speculator and founder of Newmont Mining William Boyce Thompson. From there we follow the abandoned grade of the Nevada Copper Belt Railroad across Mason Valley. We will stop at Yerington for lunch. Next stop is at Anaconda mine sites, the pit, and standing structures; we are working on getting better access to some of the property now closed for remediation. The nearby Bluestone mine of Capt. Joseph DeLamar and Thompson’s Mason Valley copper mines are in the hills to the southwest. If time allows, we will continue south via reasonably good dirt road (sedans ok) to the ruins, five stamp battery site, and foundations of the ghost town of Pine Grove. The group will return to Virginia City by 5 p.m. Note: Some site access may change and the tour may be slightly altered as a result.

## **Transitions**

**Clarence Lavett Smith, Jr.**  
**(Colorado Springs, CO)**  
**February 2015**

**Mining History Association Annual Meeting June 11-14, 2015  
Virginia City, Nevada**

**THURSDAY JUNE 11**

- 9:00-11:00 Pre-conference **Walking Tour** of Virginia City led by Ron James  
Lunch On own; enjoy Virginia City and the town's historic shops, museum, and sites.  
1:00-4:00 Registration in **Fourth Ward School**  
1:00-4:00 Council Meeting, **Fourth Ward School Wiegand Room**; and Editorial Board Meeting,  
**Fourth Ward School, Tea Room**  
1:30-3:30 Pre-conference **Walking Tour** of Virginia City led by Ron James  
5:00-7:00 **V&T Train Ride and Welcoming Reception** and appetizers with Mark Twain, **Gold Hill Hotel**  
Board V&T Train Ride at Virginia City Depot 5 p.m. on the dot.  
(Comstock Mining Inc, and Comstock Foundation sponsors)  
7:00 Dinner on your own—enjoy downtown Virginia City

**FRIDAY JUNE 12**

- 7:30-5:00 Registration in **Piper's Opera House**; Morning coffee courtesy University of Nevada Press  
8:00-5:00 Vendors in the lobby of – or at the back of the hall Piper's Opera House  
8:00-9:00 Session 1 (All morning sessions held in the **Piper's Opera House**)  
**Ed Raines**, MHA President, Welcome to MHA's 25th Annual Conference  
**Dana Bennett**, Nevada Mining Association welcome  
**Caddie S. Dufurrena** and **Matt Becker**, University of Nevada Press recognized  
**Bob Spude**, Conference Overview  
**Ron James**, Introduction to Virginia City  
9:00-10:15 Session 2: **Eric Clements**, Chair; *Nevada's Mining Fraternity I*  
**Fred N. Holabird**, Discovery of the Grosh Papers – The Culmination of Decades of  
Comstock Research  
**Gage McKinney**, Developing a School of Mines: Professor John A. Fulton at the Mackay  
School of Mines, 1924-1939  
**Ron Limbaugh**, Pitting the Comstock, W. J. Loring and the Arizona Comstock Company  
10:15-11:30 Session 3: **Chris Huggard**, Chair; *Influence of Nevada Mining*  
**Ed Raines**, The Washoe Process, from the Comstock to Caribou  
**Roger Burt**, Why didn't the British Invest in the Comstock  
**Richard Perry**, Current Status of Mining and Minerals in Nevada  
11:30-1:00 Lunch—on your own  
There are a host of restaurants just outside the Piper's Opera House, in the heart of Virginia City.

**Concurrent Sessions in the Afternoon, Piper's Opera House and Delta Saloon Upstairs, opposite Pipers**

- 1:00-2:15 Session 4-A: **Cathleen Norman**, Chair; *Social Aspects of Mining* (in **Pipers Opera House**)  
**Margo Memmott**, Large Things Forgotten: The Opera House in Nineteenth Century  
American Mining Towns  
**Catherine Holder Spude**, Saloons, Prostitutes, and Temperance in the Alaska Territory  
**Hans Muessig**, Economic and Social Stability on the Comstock: 1860-1880



- 1:00-2:15 Session 4-B: **Jay Fell**, Chair; *Technology and Stock Certificates* (in **Delta Saloon upstairs**)  
**Michele White**, Underground Drilling, Blasting, and Mucking, 1890s and 2014  
**Stan Paher**, The Role of the Charcoal Industry in Western Mining  
**Max Hensley**, Stock Certificates and the Mining West
- 2:15-3:30 Session 5-A: **Peter Mires**, Chair; *Cortez District, Sulfur Mining and Uranium* (in **Piper's**)  
**Robert McQueen**, An Archaeological Tour of Nevada's Cortez Mining District  
**Sean McMurry** and **Dave Valentine**, Raising a Stink for an Acid Trip: Historic Sulfur Mining in the American West  
**Jonah Blustain**, Searching for "Stalin's Present" in the Silver State: Uranium Exploration and Exploitation in Nevada from 1951 to 1968
- 2:15-3:30 Session 5-B: **Keith Long**, Chair; *Nevada Mining Fraternity 2* (in **Delta Saloon upstairs**)  
**Bruce O. Schneider**, "The Great Mining Man of Nevada": Colonel David E. Buel  
**James W. Andrews**, U. S. Senator William Stewart and Apex Law Litigation  
**Alan R. Wallace**, Big Impacts from Small Districts – An Example From the Kennedy Mining District, Pershing County, Nevada
- 3:30-4:50 Session 6-A: **Robert McQueen**, Chair; *Abandoned Mines, SEC Data, Cortez District II, and Chinese Heritage* (in **Piper's Opera House**)  
**Jennifer Hildebrand**, Abandoned Mine Hazards: Preserving Nevada's Mining History and Keeping Nevada Safe One Shaft at a Time.  
**Jason Spidell & Peter Mires**, Digging for Data at the SEC: An Example from Gold Hill, NV  
**Erich Obermayr**, Under the Nevada Giant: Public Interpretation of the Cortez Hills Expansion Project  
**Andrew Johnston**, Inventing Industrial Heritage in China: Tourism and Deep History
- 3:30-4:50 Session 6-B: **Johnny Johnson**, Chair; *Zinc Districts, Rare Metals and Trams* (in **Delta Saloon**)  
**L. Michael Kaas**, The History of the Friedensville Mining District and the Birth of the U. S. Zinc Industry  
**Damien Nance**, Lehigh Zinc Company and America's Largest Steam Engine  
**George E. Smith**, U. S. Critical Raw Material Problems and Possible Solutions  
**David Thayer** and **Douglas Thayer**, The Aerial Tramways of the Highland Mary Mine, Cunningham Gulch, San Juan County, Colorado
- 6:00-9:00 Annual Awards MHA Banquet, **Pipers Opera House**; MHA Awards Presentations

**SATURDAY JUNE 13**

- 8:00-11:00 Registration Table and Vendors in the back of the **Gold Hill Depot**
- 8:00-9:00 Session 7: **Ron James**, *Mining at the Extremes* (All sessions held in the **Gold Hill Depot**)  
**Brian Leech**, Minerals from Outer Space: The Role of Mining in Hollywood's Science Fiction Films  
**Paul White, Tamara Holman, and John Hemmeter**, Gold Milling in the Fairbanks District, Alaska: A Study in Technological Variation, Adaptation, and Chutzpa  
**Eric Nystrom**, "Old Comstockers" Revisited: On the Origins of American Mining Engineering

- 9:05-10:15 Session 8: **Diane Dudley**, Chair; *Mining Journeys: Families and Individual Accounts*  
**Ginny Kilander**, A Harvard Cook in the Wyoming Badlands: The 1908 Diary of Alcott Farrar Elwell  
**Stephanie A. Saager-Bourret**, Survey in an Instant: The Fall Ramblings of David Dale Owen, 1839  
**Greg Drew**, The Drews of Stithney – A Transcontinental Cornish Family
- 10:20-11:30 Session 9: **Duane Smith**, Chair; *25th Anniversary Reflections*  
**Clark Spence** video, **Ron Brown** and **Erik Nordberg** commentary with input from MHA Past Presidents and the audience.
- 11:30-1:00 Presidential Luncheon, Gold Hill Depot  
 Passing of Presidential Rock Pick: **Ed Raines**, MHA President 2014-15  
**William Culver**, MHA President 2015-16, Presidential Lecture:  
*How a Political Scientist Had His Head Turned by Mining History*
- 1:00-4:00 Tour of Comstock Mining, Inc. and Gold Hill  
 Tour starts at **Gold Hill Depot**—tour with staff from Comstock Mining, Inc.
- 1:30-4:00 Session 10: “Remembering John Livermore” in the Gold Hill Depot  
**Gwen Clancy** will introduce her 26-minute documentary film, *The Eye of the Prospector*, which features John Livermore at the Carlin Trend and the Tonopah Mining Park, as well as his fellow prospectors Bob Steele and Debbie Bustos. The film will be followed by a question and answer session. We will show the video twice in order that participants of the Comstock Mines Inc tour may, if they wish to forgo the Gold Hill walking tour half of the above afternoon tour, watch one of the showings.
- 4:30 MHA Business Meeting, (open to all members), **Gold Hill Depot**  
 6:00 Dinner on your own  
 8:00 MHA 25th Anniversary Work Session **Fourth Ward School, Wiegand Room** (session 9 continued)

#### SUNDAY JUNE 14

- 8:00-5:00 All Day Field Trip: Tour by Motor Coach led by Ron James to historic Donovan Mill, Bowers Mansion State Park, and the Nevada State Museum & Mint and the Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City.

#### MONDAY JUNE 15

- 8:00-5:00 Post-Conference All Day Ghost Town carpool tour with Stanley Paher and Bob Spude. In your own vehicle carpool through Six Mile Canyon sites, Sutro, Dayton and Carson Valley mills, Yerington copper district sites, Thompson ghost town, Anaconda mine sites, and Pine Grove.

# MHA 2015 Conference Registration Form

## Virginia City, Nevada - Jun 11 - 14, 2015

Your Name (for badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name  
(for badge): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please list me in the conference packet       I am a current member (2015 on mailing label)

Event	Cost per Attendee	Number Attending	Total per Event
<b>Conference Registration:</b> Members = \$65, Non-Members = \$75, Student (provide ID) = \$25, Spouse/Partner/Child = \$15			
<b>MHA 2015 Annual Membership:</b> US \$35, International \$45, Student \$20, Sustaining \$60, Patron \$100			
Thursday Reception: V&T Train Ride & Reception at Gold Hill Hotel	\$5		
Friday Awards Banquet By Pre-Registration Only	\$45		
Saturday Presidential Luncheon By Pre-Registration Only	\$25		
Thursday Pre-conference Tour of Virginia City Circle one: 9-11 a.m. 1:30-3:30 p.m.	\$5		
Saturday Tour of Gold Hill and Comstock Mining Inc. includes bus transportation	\$25		
Sunday All Day Tour - includes coach and lunch	\$65		
Monday All Day Ghost Town Tour - carpool, lunch NOT included	\$25		
<b>No on-site meal registration.</b>	<b>Total Payment</b>		

*\* Limited space available on tours, early registration encouraged. See trip descriptions.*

Mail completed registration form and payment by **May 1, 2015** to:

**Bob Spude Attn: MHA Conference**  
**Avenida Vista Grande, #145,**  
**Santa Fe, NM 87508**

Make checks payable to:

**Mining History Association**  
(payment in U.S. dollars: Credit Cards not accepted)

For additional conference information, contact Bob Spude: **Spudes@msn.com**

*Mining History Association  
323 Daniels Place  
Cañon City, CO 81212*

## **First Class Mail**

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **2015 Mining History Association Conference**

June 11-14, 2015

Virginia City / Comstock Lode, NV

**DETAILS INSIDE**

### **2015 National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs Conference**

Santa Fe, NM

September 28-30, 2015

**<http://www.naamlp2015.com>**

### **2015 Western History Association Conference**

October 21-24, 2015

Portland, OR

### **2016 Mining History Association Conference**

June 9-12, 2016

Telluride, CO

### **2017 Mining History Association Conference**

June 2017

Fairbanks, AK

*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 Eric Nystrom at the MHA address or by email: **[eric.nystrom@rit.edu](mailto:eric.nystrom@rit.edu)**.

Deadlines:     Spring issue: February 15  
                  Summer issue: June 15  
                  Fall issue: August 15  
                  Winter issue: November 15

Change of Address: Please send all address changes to Diane Dudley, Membership Chair, at:

**Mining History Association**  
c/o Diane Dudley  
323 Daniels Place  
Cañon City, CO 81212  
**[www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)**