



Fall 2010

Mining History News

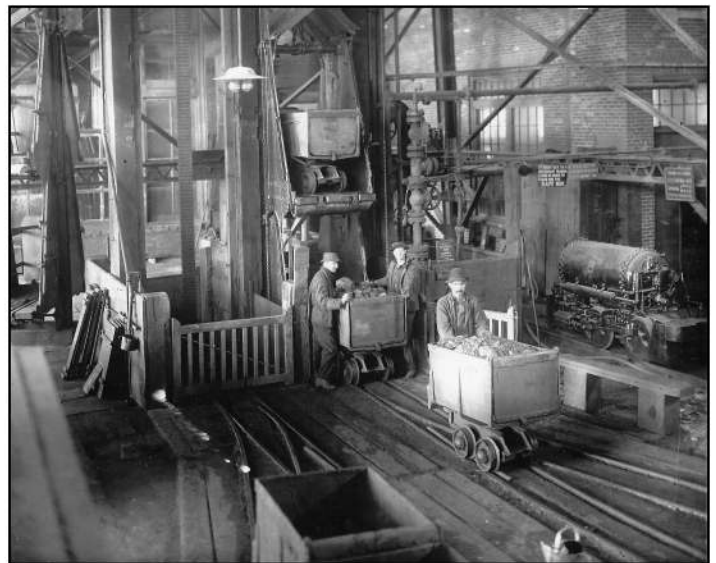
Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

Major New Mining History Archive: HARC is Almost Here!

In case you have forgotten, at the last three or four Mining History meetings I have given a plug for the Homestake-Adams Research and Cultural Center (HARC), which has been intermittently under construction in Deadwood. But good news is at hand: with some recent major donations, construction has resumed, and the HARC will open in June 2011.

For those unfamiliar with my sales pitch, let me explain more fully why this is exciting news. When the Homestake Mining Company in Lead, SD announced its closure in 2001, the people in-charge of the shutdown, first Homestake and then Barrick Gold officials, tried to figure out what to do with the massive amount of documents that the mine had generated over its 124-year history. A number of options were explored, including splitting the collection up and sending parts of it to museums and archives around the country. In the end, they decided the best action was to keep the collection intact, and felt the perfect custodians were just down the hill at the Adams Museum in Deadwood. With an excellent staff already available and the potential to tap into gambling generated historic preservation funds, the Adams made sense.

In 2005, Barrick Gold officially donated the 10,000 cubic feet of historic records to the museum, which includes 15,000 historic photographs, maps, surveys, architectural drawings, ore production records, annual reports, and more. While the Adams now owned the collection, it had no place to archive it or make it



Ellison Hoist, Homestake Mine, Lead SD, circa 1910s. (Photo from the Homestake Mining Company Collection, Homestake-Adams Research and Cultural Center, Deadwood SD.)

available to the public. Working hand-in-hand with the City of Deadwood, a fairly modern building was purchased in 2006, and plans were made to turn it into a state-of-the-art archives. Remodeling began in early 2008, but the money Deadwood made available was rapidly spent, and other donations were sought. Over the past 2 and ½ years, money has come in, but never enough to complete the project. As the building sat half finished, some frustration was felt, and a few skeptics doubted that it would ever be completed. But within the last month, the final \$300,000 bridge was crossed and the \$3.7 million dollar facility will soon open. Many benefactors have made this possible with large and small donations, but some of special note include the

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"HARC..." (Continued from Page 1)

Great Plains Education Foundation, the Adams Mastrovich Family Foundation, the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, Barrick Gold Corporation, the Hearst Foundations, and South Dakota Governor Michael D. Rounds.

When visiting the HARC, researchers will discover three reading rooms, two reserved for long-term researchers and a larger one for short-term use. The facility will also have a lecture hall, two meeting rooms, a library, with the entire facility highlighted by mining exhibits. (As part of the Homestake donation, the Adams Museum now owns two of virtually every piece of equipment used at the mine.) The paper documents are already housed in three climate controlled storage vaults and a map room. Mining history researchers will find the 17,000 square foot archives an invaluable resource, especially since other collections, with mining material, are also being donated. We in the Black Hills are excited, as most mining history enthusiasts should be, and we owe a great debt of thanks to Mary Kopco, the Director of the Adams Museum, and her hard-working staff. But as they will tell you, more money still needs to be raised for furniture, equipment, and operating expenses. I invite you to the Black Hills to take a look. Give me a call and we can talk mining history, and in a few years maybe we can put together one of our "mini-conferences" with the HARC as our home base.

Best wishes for a glorious fall.

David A. Wolff
Spearfish, SD
David.Wolff@bhsu.edu

Future MHA Meetings

Dillon, Montana: June 1-5, 2011

Prescott, Arizona: June 7-10, 2012

Galena, Illinois: June 2013



The Homestake-Adams Research and Cultural Center contains a full spectrum of material from Homestake's 124-year history, such as this mid-20th century underground shot of a borehole machine at work. (Photo from the Homestake Mining Company Collection, Homestake-Adams Research and Cultural Center, Deadwood SD.)

MHA Annual Dues

Your dues are current through the end of the calendar year listed on your mailing label. Please send payment for dues, payable to the Mining History Association, to Diane Dudley at the address below. Thank you!

General Membership:	\$25.00
International:	\$35.00
Sustaining Membership:	\$50.00
Patron Membership:	\$100.00
Corporate Member:	\$500.00

Diane Dudley, Membership Chair
Mining History Association
P.O. Box 552
Sedalia, CO 80135

New Books From MHA Authors

Note: As announced in the Summer issue, the Mining History News is instituting a new annual feature, to appear each Fall. Authors who are MHA members may submit information about their recent books, including a short synopsis of the book (as might appear on a book jacket).

This will help bring new books on mining history to the attention of our membership. To participate, send details and a description to Eric Nystrom, Newsletter Editor, at eric.nystrom@rit.edu.

Sheila Kelly, *Treadwell Gold: An Alaska Saga of Riches and Ruin* (Fairbanks: University of Alaska Press, 2010), 260 pages; cloth: \$35.00, ISBN: 978-1602230750; soft cover available February, 2011.

A century ago, Treadwell, Alaska was the largest hard rock gold mining operation in the world. The mammoth lode of low grade ore discovered in 1880 on Douglas Island opened up Alaska to trade and tourism and put Juneau on the map. A company town of pounding stamp mills boasted gracious living with club house and heated swimming pool for families that included the author's grandfather, a Treadwell machinist. Process refinements increased production and profits and also accelerated underground caving. On April 22, 1917, on a high tide, the waters of Gastineau Channel gouged a hole in the weakened surface and poured into a sinkhole, flooding the mines. Overnight the fabled town became a footnote in history. A 1926 fire destroyed most of the remaining buildings. Today the forest grows over rusted hulks of machinery and massive foundations, crumbling evidence that this was once the site of a great enterprise.

Ronald H. Limbaugh, *Tungsten in Peace and War, 1918-1946* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2010), 312 pages; cloth: \$44.95, ISBN: 978-0874178203.

Tungsten is a rare ferrous metal whose ability to form molecular compounds with other elements has made it one of the essential elements in steelmaking, electronics, and various military technologies. *Tungsten in Peace and War, 1918-1946* is the first comprehensive study of the use of tungsten and its role in modern technology, politics, and international trade. The book is a significant addition to the history of technology and a revelation of the complex role that tungsten and other critical metals play in national and international politics and in the world economy. Ronald H. Limbaugh is professor emeritus of history at the University of the Pacific, former President of the MHA, and the author of *Calaveras Gold: The Impact of Mining on a Mother Lode County* (University of Nevada Press, 2003).

Phylis Cancilla Martinelli, *Undermining Race: Ethnic Identities in Arizona Copper Camps, 1880-1920* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2009), 240 pages; cloth: \$50.00, ISBN: 978-0816527458.

Undermining Race examines relationships between Anglo, Italian, Mexican, and Spanish miners, exploring how racial categories varied across place and time. The book develops the notion that southern Europeans were socially an "in between" group. Italians were legally "white" but were paid a lower wage than northern Europeans; moreover micro to macro levels of violence reinforced their subordinate place. Awareness of these inequities encouraged Italians and Spaniards to cooperate with Mexicans in some strikes. Local conditions such as management practices and communities forged by immigrants across language and cultural barriers are explored. Phylis Cancilla Martinelli is a professor and chair of the Sociology Department at St. Mary's College of California.

Steven T. Mitchell, *Nuggets to Neutrinos: The Homestake Story* (Bloomington, IN: Xlibris Corporation, 2009), 738 pages; cloth: \$34.99, ISBN: 978-1441570666; paper: \$23.99, ISBN: 9781441570673. <http://www.mitchellsblackhillsbooks.com>

This book recounts the Homestake story and shows how it continues to evolve today, from a productive mine to an underground laboratory. The Homestake legacy began with the Black Hills gold rush. The famous Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota was located in 1876. A year later, George Hearst, Lloyd Tevis, and James B. Haggin purchased the mine and immediately formed Homestake Mining Company. This began the development of the company's flagship mine that produced forty million ounces of gold prior to its closure in 2001. But the mine's legacy continues to evolve. Today, the 8,000-foot-deep mine is being converted into a deep underground science and engineering laboratory where scientists will conduct research on dark matter, astrophysics, double beta decay, and solar neutrinos. Pending federal approvals, the laboratory will be transitioned into a world-class center for science, education, and outreach with primary campuses on the 4,850- and 7,400-foot levels.

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Mining History Association Call For Papers 2011 Meeting at Dillon, MT

The Mining History Association is an organization of individuals from the United States and other countries with a common interest in all aspects of mining history. Though most members are from the American West, anyone interested in mining is welcome to participate in our annual conferences, which combine oral and visual presentations with regional and local tours at active or historic mining areas in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

In June 2011 the Mining History Association will meet on the campus of the University of Montana-West in Dillon, near the historic gold rush towns and districts of Bannack, Virginia City and Alder Gulch. For that meeting, to be held June 2-5, the Program Committee invites proposals for papers, presentations and panels on any aspect of mining history in any era or location around the world. Related fields may include science and technology, law and governance, labor and social history, industrial archaeology, business history, preservation, reclamation and environmental history. **In celebration of the Idaho-Montana gold rush, 1860-1865, proposals on any mining-related aspect of that era are especially encouraged.**

Each proposal should be submitted by e-mail, and contain an abstract of no more than 500 words, along with a brief c.v. that includes the address, phone number, and email for each participant. If submitting an entire session, include an abstract that outlines the purpose of the session and lists names, addresses, phone numbers and emails of all participants. The Program Committee assumes all listed individuals in a session proposal agree to participate. **Deadline for submissions is December 1, 2010.**

Proposals and inquiries should be sent by email directly to any of the following members of the Program Committee:

Ronald H. Limbaugh: limbaugh@mcn.org
William W. Culver: william.culver@plattsburgh.edu
Corky Reinhart: corkyreinhart@gmail.com

In Memoriam: John Hillman

Professor Emeritus John Hillman, a valued contributor to the MHA and noted expert on the history of tin mining, passed away August 24, 2010. John Hillman was a long standing senior member of the staff at Trent University, Ontario, with a deep interest in the tin industry. His research on tin covered every continent and he had written extensively on South America, South-East Asia, Australia, and Africa. In March of this year Routledge published his *International Tin Cartel* which will spread considerable light of the web of relationships which controlled the industry during the inter-war years of the mid 20th century and had a significant impact on the way it was run after 1946.

John will be missed by everyone who knew him.

*Noel Kirshenbaum
San Francisco, Calif.*

MHA Authors...

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Dave Thorpe, *Carbide Light: The Last Flame in American Mines* (Berkeley, CA: Bergamot Books, 2006), 248 pages; hardbound: \$79.95, ISBN: 978-0976090526. <http://www.eurekamagazine.net>

Carbide Light traces the history of the numerous inventors and manufacturers of carbide lamps and offers exhaustive, full-color documentation of this fascinating corner of American history. Author Dave Thorpe describes the technical features of the numerous styles of lamps, from the earliest Baldwin lights that began to appear around 1900 to the extensive line of Justrite lamps that were still made in the 1970s. He also includes biographies of the inventors who patented the lamps, bringing human drama to this engineering topic. During carbide's short reign as the predominant form of mine lighting (1910 to 1925) hundreds of novel designs appeared and form a chronological record in the pages of this volume.

Dave Thorpe, *Beneath the Surface: Inventors and Marketeers of the Miners' Carbide Lamp* (Berkeley, CA: Bergamot Books, 2010), 205 pages; hardbound: \$59.95, ISBN: 978-0976090564. <http://www.eurekamagazine.net>

Beneath the Surface presents biographies of a rare breed of American entrepreneurs -- those who developed the miners' carbide light, often in competition with one another. Their life stories, recorded here for the first time with supplementary appendices from local archives, capture America's emerging industrial age from the perspective of immigrant families, who began life in the New World as farmers, peddlers, businessmen, and also miners. This fascinating study shows how the inventors and marketeers of open-flame light varied as much as their individual backgrounds.

Nominate Books for MHA's 2009-2010 Spence Award

The Clark C. Spence Award Committee of the Mining History Association is accepting nominations for the best book published on Mining History during 2009-2010. The committee considers books that meet the documentation and narrative standards set by the works of Clark Christian Spence, professor emeritus, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

To be considered, the book must focus on the history of a specific mining region, or a mining-related theme or topic, especially within the American West, or an individual or individuals prominent in the history of American mining.

There are no temporal limits on subjects. The book must be published either in the year 2009 or 2010. A \$500 cash prize will be presented to the winning author or authors at the 2011 Mining History Association Annual Meeting.

Authors or publishers should send three copies of the nominated work to the Committee chair:

David Wolff
Attn. MHA Spence Award
Black Hills State University
1200 University St, Unit 9059
Spearfish, SD 57799

MHA Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

The MHA Nominating Committee is responsible for setting up MHA elections. We need your help! Are you, or someone you know, willing to serve the MHA as a member of the council or one of the standing committees? Do you want to propose the nomination of a fellow member for office? Many MHA positions require only modest amounts of time plus attendance at our annual meeting. Please email the Nominating Committee (care of Eric Nystrom, eric.nystrom@rit.edu), or write to us: MHA Nominating Committee, P.O. Box 552, Sedalia, CO 80135. Please have your suggestions for the upcoming year to the committee by October 15.

Nominating Committee Members

Noel Kirshenbaum (2008-2011)

Bill Wahl (2009-2012)

Eric Nystrom (2010-2013)

Upcoming Mining History Meetings Worldwide

South Africa Hosts 9th International Mining History Congress

The **Ninth International Mining History Congress**, to be held in **Johannesburg, 15-18 August 2011**, brings together practitioners of mining history in all of its forms to exchange recent research findings. Papers are invited from academics, amateur historians, former and present employees of the mining industry, government officials, and conservationists, archivists and curators.

This is the first congress to be held in Africa, and we are delighted that South Africa has been invited to host the event. The world is increasingly dependent on the continent's mining industry, with South Africa being the biggest producer of platinum and a major player in the mining of coal, iron and other minerals. Africa has a long history of mining, one that, especially in the case of diamonds and gold, had considerable impact on the world's economy, engineering and labour relations. From its pre-colonial past to its post-colonial present, African mining has departed from practices elsewhere, whilst also sharing much that is common. This combination of the unique and the universal will contribute to the character and success of the congress. The event itself will be held in Johannesburg, the City of Gold, close to both Rustenburg, our Platinum City, and also the Cradle of Humankind. As with any South African conference, it will provide excellent opportunities for study tours and conventional tourism, as well as intellectual stimulation.

Papers and presentations maybe scientific or experiential, and there are no rules about their length. Selection will be on the basis of merit. For consideration, please provide a 300 word proposal and a 50 word biographical note. The organisers also welcome proposals for panels on any of the large number of potential conference themes. A few bursaries will be available for students. Proposals should be sent to **IMHC@uj.ac.za** no later than 10 January 2011.

The local organising committee includes representation from University of Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand, Chamber of Mines, National Union of Mine Workers, Association of Mine Managers of South Africa, TEBA Development, Geological Society of South Africa, Centre for Sustainability in Mining, and Southern African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy.

Australia Welcomes Mining Historians to Gather at Hahndorf

The **17th Annual Australian Mining History Association Conference** will be held **September 13-19, 2011, in Hahndorf, South Australia**.

The German township of Hahndorf is located just 30 minutes from the centre of Adelaide in the beautiful Adelaide Hills which will be at their best in September. Surrounding Hahndorf is the site of some of Australia's earliest mining activity and includes historic gold, copper and silver-lead mines, and mining townships. In addition there are historic brickworks, an operating metal mine and one of Australia's largest mine rehabilitation projects. The main conference runs from Sept 14-17 with pre and post conference tours on Sept 13, 18 and 19. Presentations and a social event will be held in the historic Hahndorf Institute. A Welcome Reception and AMHA dinner will be held in the Hahndorf area.

The conference theme is "Australia's Earliest Mining Era," which refers to the first era of metal mining in Australia which took place in the Mount Lofty Ranges of South Australia in the period 1841-1851. This is the decade prior to the discovery of gold in them eastern States when South Australia possessed most of Australia's metal mines. Papers on any aspect related to this theme are encouraged, but papers on all topics related to mining history are welcome.

Planned short tours include trips to Callington Township and Bremer Mine, Jupiter Creek Diggings, Littlehampton Brickworks, and Brukunga Mine. The group will also offer the following full-day tours: Willunga Township and Slate Quarries, Mylor to Hallett Cove, and the Kanmantoo-Strathalbyn Mining District.

For further information, please consult the AMHA website:

<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au/conference> or contact **Greg Drew**, Conference Coordinator: **gldrew@internode.on.net**

2011 Mining History Association Research Grant Program

The Research Grant Program is open to all who are currently engaged in or who plan to conduct mining history research. Eligible persons include graduate students, academic scholars, public sector professionals in history-related disciplines, independent scholars, writers, and educators. The MHA does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, age, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis. The Grant Committee, at its discretion, may make up to two grants per year. Funding may vary, up to a maximum of \$750 per grant. The amount of each award will be determined by the Grant Committee on the basis of available funding, the grant criteria as indicated below, and on individual budget priorities. Announcement of the winner(s) will be made as quickly as possible, so that funds may be used in preparation for the 2012 Annual meeting.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must submit a complete letter of application and a relevant vita no later than May 1, 2011 to BrianLeech@augustana.edu. Application information and criteria are outlined below.

Thank you for applying and good luck with your research!

The 2011 Mining History Association Grant Committee
Brian Leech (Chair), Eric Nystrom, David Wolff

Application Information

Your *letter of application* should include the following:

1. **Contact information.** Please include name, postal address, email address, phone, and institutional affiliation (if any).
2. **Title** of the proposed project.
3. **Research Proposal.** (1,000 words maximum)
Describe the nature and purpose of the research, the relevance/importance to mining history, the purpose and necessity of the travel, the sources expected to be consulted, and plans to disseminate the research.
4. **Budget** (750 word limit) List the amount of funds requested (maximum \$750), itemize the amounts requested, indicate how the money will be used, and prioritize the amounts by order of importance to the project.

Send your *letter of application*, containing the information requested above, *plus a resumé or vita*, to BrianLeech@augustana.edu no later than May 1, 2011.

Criteria For Selection

Criteria for selection include the following:

1. Clarity of the stated objectives and procedures.
2. Quality of the work anticipated and the likelihood that the proposed project will be successfully completed within one year from the time the grant money becomes available.
3. Significance of the research topic to mining history.
4. How specific, realistic, and conservative the budget is.
5. Plans for disseminating the results of the research. Agree to prepare, within one year following a grant award, either a presentation for consideration by the program committee at the MHA Annual meeting, or an article to be reviewed in consideration for publication by the *Mining History Journal*. Some awardees may choose to do both.

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 552
Sedalia, CO 80135

First Class Mail

Upcoming Events

22nd Mining History Association Conference

June 1-5, 2011

Dillon, MT

<http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org>

9th International Mining History Congress

August 15-18, 2011

Johannesburg, South Africa

17th Australian Mining History Association Conference

Sept. 13-19, 2011

Hahndorf, South Australia

<http://www.mininghistory.asn.au>

23rd Mining History Association Conference

June 7-10, 2012

Prescott, AZ

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.

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
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www.mininghistoryassociation.org