



Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

Summer/Fall 2018

Black Hills Extravaganza!!

Not only was our Deadwood Conference a smashing success with over 170 attendees but it could also be described with multiple superlatives which I will sum up as an extravaganza.

Attendees were regaled with outstanding talks, superbly planned, led, and organized tours, and an excellent venue, all in a place brimming with mining history. We can credit all this to the unsparing efforts of the organizing committee, composed of David Wolff, Bob Otto, and Carolyn Weber, local volunteers, the program committee (Brian Leech, Bob Spude, Bob Otto, and David Wolff), and generous financial and material contributions from the Homestake Mining Co., Coeur/Wharf Mining Co., City of Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, the South Dakota State Preservation Office, and the City of Lead. On behalf of the entire MHA membership, I would like to thank the organizers, donors, and attendees who made this an outstanding conference.

For those of you who managed to hang on to the very end and hear my Presidential address on the Perpetual Prospect, you undoubtedly heard my pitch for digital archives. I relied almost entirely on digital mining history-related archives for the substance of my talk and use them extensively in my work. With ready access to these archives via the internet I can avoid the time and expense of travelling to archives in distant places, greatly shortening the time required for research and increasing my productivity. Digital archives are a recent and growing trend that deserves our encouragement. One way to do that is to use them and use them a lot.

To that end, I will take this and following columns to point out a number of outstanding digital archives along with some pointers on what they are good for and how to use them effectively. All of this information and more will eventually be incorporated into the MHA website. At present these archives fall into several broad categories: (1) mineral property files of State geological surveys that include a lot of “gray” literature, namely consultant’s reports, maps, promotional material, and original but unpublished work by state geologists and engineers; (2) photo and map archives; (3) historical newspapers; and (4) various Federal records. I will focus on the first category in this column and deal with the others in upcoming columns.

I believe the Arizona Geological Survey was the first to digitize their mineral property files, making them accessible via the following website with numerous search tools: <http://minedata.azgs.arizona.edu/>. These files originally belonged to the Arizona Department of Mines and Mineral Resources (ADMMR) which was merged into the Arizona Geological Survey in 2011. You may recall that ADMMR was once headed by the late Mason Coggins, an MHA member, who was a huge supporter of this archive.

The collection began with the creation of ADMMR in 1939 and was greatly expanded by the efforts of Nyal Niemuth, now retired after a 30+ year career with ADMMR and the Arizona Geological Survey.

Black Hills and Beyond...

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Nyal oversaw the digitization of the archive which now contains 30 archival collections, over 10,000 folders, more than 6,000 maps, and 7,000+ photographs. The late Lee Allison, State Geologist, was a pioneer in bringing these archives and all of the Arizona Geological Survey's products online.

I had used the archives for years before they were placed on line, making regular trips to Phoenix to work with the physical files. The archives are organized by mining property, whether mine or prospect, providing a record of who did what and where on each property. I have found material dating back to the 1880s in the Bradshaws and Tombstone. It is difficult to describe the breadth material in these files. Perhaps the best way to gain an appreciation of this archive is to give it try – search on some old Arizona mine that interests you and see what comes up.

The Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology originally made its mineral property archives available on an external hard drive which could be purchased for about the cost of the device. The archive is organized by mining district and can now be searched online at: <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/Collections/MiningDistricts/MDDDBTextSearch.html> .

I have not used this archive much as yet but appears broadly similar to the Arizona archive.

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries has an online database of archival material relating to mineral occurrences, prospects, and mines in Oregon: www.oregongeology.org/milo/ohmi.htm .

I have even less experience with these files but have found numerous unpublished reports relating to strategic mineral investigations during the Cold War. The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology has recently developed a Mining Archives online database at: http://www.mbmng.mtech.edu/mining-archives/mining-archives_data.asp .

Other Western States have extensive mineral property files. That of California is the largest but I have not heard a hint of interest in digitizing them even though they are highly relevant to current abandoned mine investigations in California. The Washington Geological Survey and the Idaho Geological Survey have used their files to produce a useful series of historical reports on important mines, generally as open-file or staff reports. The Idaho reports are conveniently listed at: https://www.idahogeology.org/products?f%5B0%5D=pubcat_simple%3AStaff%20Reports .

These are the digital mineral property archives I have found so far. If anyone known of any others, please let me know.

Keep up the search!

Keith Long
MHA President 2018-2019
keithrlong@q.com

Mining History Association 2018-2019

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Nathan Delaney, newsletter editor

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Silvia Pettem
Ron Brown
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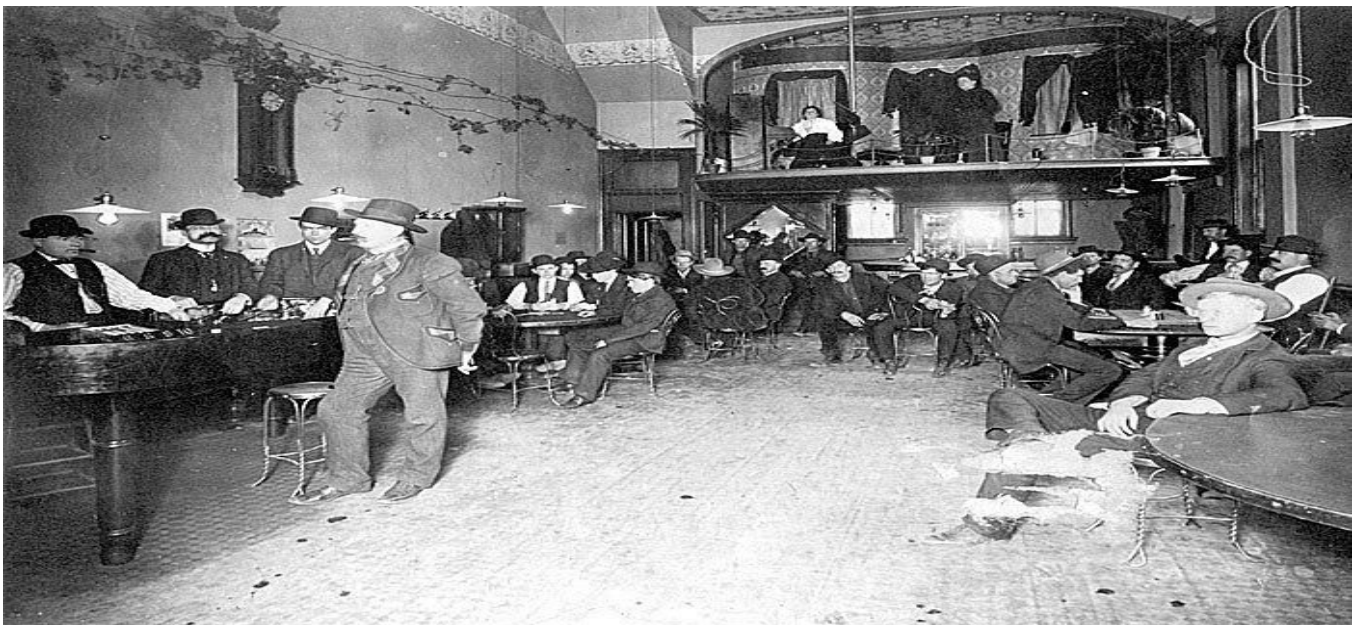
**Call for Presentations
29th Annual Conference
Mining History Association
6-10 June 2019
Marquette, Michigan**

The Program Committee of the Mining History Association invites proposals for individual presentations or complete sessions (includes chair) on any topic or aspect of mining history. Sessions normally include three papers of twenty minutes each. There are no temporal or geographic limits. Presentations that address mining history the Lake Superior basin, Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and especially the iron ore, copper, and gold mining regions are particularly welcome.

Proposals should include title of presentation, an abstract (not to exceed one page) for each presentation, plus biographical information about each presenter, including mailing/email address. Please send the written proposals via email attachment to Terry Reynolds by January 1, 2019. Submission by email is required.

The Program Committee for the MHA's 2019 Marquette conference consists of: Terry Reynolds (Chair), Erik Nordberg, and Stephanie Saager-Bourret.

**Terry Reynolds, MHA—Deadwood
treynold@mtu.edu**



The Bodega Saloon, Deadwood, c.1890

2018 Rodman Paul Award for outstanding contributions to mining history:

Robert Wolensky, Anthracite Mining Historian, Professor of Sociology Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

2018 Ed Hunter Award for distinguished service to the Mining History Association:

Diane Dudley, longtime MHA membership secretary.

John Townley Award for the best paper published in The Mining History Journal for 2017:

Brian Leech, "Competition, Community, and Entertainment: The Anaconda Company's Promotion of Mine Safety in Butte, Montana, 1915-1942."

MHA Research Grant Recipients for 2018:

Jeff Birkenstein, Professor of English, St. Martin's University

Francesca Sanna, PhD Candidate, Paris 7 Diderot University

Robrecht Declercq, Post-doctoral researcher of the Research Foundation--Flanders, Ghent University

Attention MHA Authors: Publicity Opportunity

Have you written a book on some aspect of mining history that you think your fellow members might find interesting? **The MHA Newsletter runs an annual column in the Winter issue with announcements of books on mining history written by our members** in the past year or two. These announcements supplement, but do not re-place, our traditional list of publications and book reviews in the annual Mining History Journal, and serve as an additional way to bring your work to the attention of our membership.

How to participate

Send the complete bibliographic information (author, title, publisher, publisher location, year, number of pages, binding, price, and ISBN) plus a 100-150 word summary of the book (like you would use for a dust jacket) to Nathan Delaney at nathan.delaney@case.edu. Works of popular history, academic studies, poetry, fiction, and art are all welcome, as long as they concern the broad themes of mining history of interest to our society. The Newsletter reserves the right to edit all content. Submissions will be accepted throughout the year and printed in the winter newsletter, which appears in September. **Authors must be members of the MHA.**

This year's submissions will run in the Fall newsletter and will be accepted until **October 31**.

Attention MHA Conference Vendors!

The Mining History Association will be meeting in Marquette, Michigan, June 6-9, 2019. On Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, vendor tables will be available at \$35 per table in a location adjacent to the session rooms. The MHA Conference attracts people from the United States and other countries who have an interest in mining related books, artifacts and other collectable items. MHA meetings generally attract upwards of 150 people.

Interested vendors should contact Mark or Lynn Langenfeld at mha.mqt2019@gmail.com by May 2019

Photos from Deadwood Conference



(Above) Sanford Neutrino Lab in Lead, S.D. (Below) The Hickock Mine. (Next Page) The Homestake Pit at Sanford Neutrino Lab. Photos courtesy of Fred Barnard.



Photos continued...



Extra! Extra! MHA heading to Birmingham!

The MHA is set to have two Annual Conferences featuring iron-mining districts – Marquette, Michigan, in 2019, and Birmingham, Alabama, in 2021. Get ready and expect great things for MHA at these upcoming events!

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 6356,
Boise, ID 83707

Upcoming Events

Economic History Association Conference

September 2018
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Australasian Mining History Conference 8-12

October 2018
Cromwell, South Island, New Zealand
www.mininghistory.asn.au

Int'l Conf of Mining & Underground Museums

19-22 November 2018
Krakow, Poland

2019 Mining History Association Conference

5-9 June 2019
Marquette, MI

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 Nathan Delaney, nathan.delaney@case.edu,

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

Change of Address: Please send all address changes to Rebecca Lange, Membership Chair, at:

Mining History Association
Rebecca Lange
P.O. Box 6356,
Boise, ID 83707
www.mininghistoryassociation.org