



# Mining History News

Newsletter of the Mining History Association

March 2005



Volume 16, Number 1

## Historic Preservation

Without asking one of the founding fathers of the Mining History Association, I will guess that one of the primary reasons for creating MHA was the preservation of mining history. This guess is reinforced by the results of my “poor mans” statistical analysis (*Mining History News*, Dec. 2002) that showed historic preservation as one of the top interests among MHA members. Not being a “professional” mining historian I was curious as to what factors might be included in the definition of historic preservation. So, with no fear of losing my amateur standing, I e-mailed a few MHA respondents who had chosen historic preservation as a primary interest. I specifically ask, if their interest was predominately the preservation of: (1) documents, photographs and other paper, (2) mining hardware, (3) actual mine sites or, (4) all of the above? They may have thought my question a little naive but all were polite and prompt with their replies. Their spontaneous and unanimous answer was #4, (all of the above) however, none of them were satisfied with that simple reply. I was impressed with their enthusiasm and eagerness to elaborate on certain aspects of historic preservation. The first respondent was concerned with site preservation: “Certainly we need to preserve historic sites. We need to be more cognizant of our heritage and the role played by former mining towns.” A mining engineering professor expressed, “the need to preserve examples of mining equipment,-----tugger and slusher hoists, jackleg and stoper drills, and rail-mounted haulage.” Another

respondent was a historian working in cultural resource management (CRM). His primary interest was in “mining sites and buildings associated with mining but also, mining hardware to date the sites and photographs and documents to identify and evaluate old mining sites.” The last respondent may have summed it up best. He wanted to know, “why one would attempt to limit the definition of the term historic preservation in any particular way. -----Hardware oriented folks often ignore papers and records, taking bits and pieces home as souvenirs or selling it off. -----(some) academic historians focus on social issues or business issues and ignore the evidence on the ground. Fortunately, the Mining History Association draws few if any boundaries in its membership or its work.” Wow, I really liked his last sentence.

Obviously, I have taken little snippets out of context from their actual replies, some of which were quite lengthy. It may have been a naive question but I’m sure glad I asked it. If my little survey is half-way representative then, the MHA has a lot of members who are very passionate about preserving mining history and, each will probably have a slightly different perspective on what aspects are most important and what to do about it.

In my nearly fifty years of being associated with mining I have seen the progressive destruction of 1) mine reports, maps & other historical documents, 2) machinery and other mining hardware and, of

course, 3) the total destruction of historic mining sites. In hindsight, I wonder which of these categories I would have chosen to preserve. Like those who answered before me, I would also have chosen #4, all of the above. Given the chance to elaborate on the subject, however, I would mostly complain about the loss of old mine examination reports, maps and other historic documents. You may place your emphasis on a different aspect of historical preservation but, that's what makes the subject interesting.

That brings us to the question: who are the stewards of historic preservation? Probably, most of us in the Mining History Association qualify in one respect or another. We all enjoy reading about mining history and many of our members have dis-

tinguished themselves as teachers, authors and speakers on the subject. Some members actually work for government and volunteer organizations that preserve old mining sites. Archivists, artists, librarians, museum workers, geologists, mining engineers, metallurgists and collectors, all make their contributions to preserving mining history.

Maybe you will agree that, historic preservation is a many faceted and compelling subject that deserves more attention. How about a panel discussion? It's too late for the program at Scranton but, maybe we can convince the program chair to consider one for Globe-2006?

Bob Weldin, MHA President

## Scranton Update

Upon arrival of this newsletter it is time to make your plans to attend the upcoming Mining History Conference in Scranton, Pennsylvania. A Registration Form is included for you to complete and submit with your payment check. A Conference Schedule is also provided listing the activities planned from June 16-20, 2005 in the unique anthracite coal mining region. Your early registration would be appreciated in getting a headcount for vendors. Direct your Conference questions to Chairman Johnny Johnsson via e-mail at johnnyj@qis.net ; by phone (W) 410-329-3417 or (H) 410-833-5508; or during the conference (cell phone) 410-746-8723. Also, refer to your December 2004 newsletter for other conference planning information about the Scranton area.

Registration opens on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Electric City Trolley Museum ([www.visitnepa.org](http://www.visitnepa.org) or 570-963-6590) located adjacent to the Steamtown National Historic Park parking lot. From exit 185 off I-81 follow the numerous directional signs in downtown Scranton to Steamtown and the Trolley Museum. If you arrive prior to the

conference, a regional Visitors Center ([www.lackawannacounty.org](http://www.lackawannacounty.org) or 1-800-22-WELCOME) is located conveniently at exit 182 off I-81 with more information and brochures than you can possibly imagine of things to do and places to see. John Park, author of Guidebook to Mining in America and several state mining heritage guides, has generously prepared a Scranton Area Mining Heritage Guide. A .pdf version is available for on-line download prior to the conference. To get to the download email mailbox, go to yahoo.com (log out of your own account first though) and click on "mail." Sign into the email account Yahoo! ID: stnrspb@yahoo.com, and use the password "stonerose" (lower case). Follow the directions given and please report any problems to stonerosepub@att.net.

In Scranton, sites that are not part of the conference agenda such as Steamtown ([www.nps.gov/stea](http://www.nps.gov/stea) or 1-888-693-9391), the Scranton Iron Furnaces, and the Lackawanna County Historical Society are recommended for visiting. Steamtown now charges \$6 to enter the grounds, plus an additional fee for

continued on page 5...

# MHA 2005 Conference Agenda

## Scranton, Pennsylvania

Sponsors – Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority; Florida Rock Industries, Inc.; Soldiers Delight Conservation, Inc.; Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society

### Thursday, June 16

2:00-5:00 p.m. Conference Registration - Electric City Trolley Museum

6:00-9:00 p.m. Welcoming Reception - Electric City Trolley Museum; “Hard Coal” and Music Entertainment by Van Wagner

### Friday, June 17

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (McDade Park)

Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour; Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum; Box lunch

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center (LHVC), Mayfield, PA

1:30–3:15 p.m. Session I – Anthracite Coal

*Going to War: The Delaware & Hudson versus the Pennsylvania Coal Company, 1848-1853, New Perspectives from the James Archbald Papers*, Michael Knies

*Invention and Innovation in Anthracite Transportation by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company*, Lance Metz

*Against All Odds: Coxe Brothers & Company, Inc. and the Struggle to Remain Independent*, Patrick Shea

*Mapping Underground Drifton: The Evolution of Anthracite Mine Maps*, Eric Nystrom

3:30–5:00 p.m. Session II – International Asia

*Tomoko (Miner’s Craft Guild): An 18th Century Precursor to the Modern Miner’s Labor Union*, Sunao Murata

*The Waters Brothers: Globe Trotting 19<sup>th</sup> Century Adventurer Engineers*, Motoko Nagata

*Justifying Mining Concessions: the Pekin Syndicate in China, 1900-45*, Frank King

6:00-9:00 p.m. Reception and Annual Awards Banquet (Atrium)

Keynote Address – *The Role of Anthracite Coal in the Industrial Revolution*, Lance Metz – National Canal Museum

### Saturday, June 18

7:30-8:30 a.m. MHA Board Meeting

#### Concurrent Morning Sessions:

8:30-10:00 a.m. Session IIIA – Pennsylvania Coal (Lecture Hall)

*The U.S. Bureau of Mines (1910-1996) and Its Role in Anthracite Mining*, Michael Kaas  
*‘Peace with Justice’: The United States Coal Commission of 1922*, Eric Jarvis

*Buried: The Invisibility of Coal Mining in Pittsburgh, 1890-1910*, Ed Slavishak

*The Miners of Central Pennsylvania*, Dawn Bunyak

Session IIIB – Metal West (Tiered Classroom)

*Big Bend Texas; Shafter Silver, Terlingua Quicksilver, and Jim Bowie Silver Scam*; Donald Buddecke  
*Telluride Minerals: Rare, Unusual, and Often Unrecognized in Colorado Mining Districts*, Ed Raines  
*The Leadville Irish*, James Walsh

10:15-11:45 a.m. Session IVA - Coal Other (Lecture Hall)

*By Deer or Wheel, the History of the Richmond Basin Coal Mines*, Lyle Browning  
*The Cherry Coal Mine Disaster, 1909*, Robert Sorgenfrei  
*From a Land of Transit to a Mining Camp: The Early History of Rock Springs, Wyoming*, Timothy Draper  
*The Pittsburgh of the South: Birmingham, Alabama and the Rise of the Industrial District*, Karen Utz

Session IVB – Metal West (Tiered Classroom)

*An Iron Hand in a Velvet Glove: Management of the Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota, 1884-1914*, Susan Richards & Rex Myers  
*Getting Mined Rock from Underground to Surface*, Ed Hunter  
*The Search for the Jackson Mine -- A Hole in the Ground Partially Owned by Mark Twain*, Peter Maciulaitis

12:00–1:15 p.m. Presidential Luncheon (Atrium)

*The Preservation of Mining History Through Art*, Bob Weldin

1:30–3:00 p.m. Session V - Metal-East

*The Gap Nickel Mine, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and the American Nickel Works, Camden, New Jersey – 1860-1890*, Dale Chadwick & Jan Matousek  
*Thomas Edison's Method of Processing Low-grade Magnetite*, Rodney Johnson  
*Life Underground: Images from Michigan's Copper Country*, Erik Nordberg

3:15–4:45 p.m. Session VI – International Europe

*Screen Images of Italian Immigrants to the Belgian Coal Mines*, Philip Mosley  
*The Reconversion of Emblematical Sites for Coal Extraction in the North of France, with the Example of the Mining History Centre*, André DUBUC  
*Gambling for Managerial Control: Mines, the State, and Immigrant Labor in Depression-era France*, Philip Slaby

4:45–5:30 p.m. MHA Business Meeting

5:30–7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own.

7:00–10:00 p.m. Special Evening Presentation – (Cafeteria)

*Pennsylvania Anthracite History on Stage*, Philip Mosley  
*The Molly Maguires* – Movie to start by 7:30 p.m.

### Sunday, June 19

New Jersey Zinc Mining District Field Trip

7:00 a.m. Meet buses at LHVC

7:30 a.m. Transportation leaves LHVC

9:00 a.m. - Arrive Sterling Hill Mining Museum – Ogdensburg, NJ

Tour Sterling Hill & Franklin Mineral Museum, Franklin, NJ; Lunch provided by Sterling Hill

4:30 p.m. Leave Sterling Hill

6:00 p.m. Return to LHVC

**Monday, June 20**

(Optional Post-Conference Tour; drive on your own, sturdy shoes required)  
Post-Host – Huber Breaker Preservation Society

8:30-10:30 a.m.	Huber Breaker Tour, Ashley, PA (must sign waiver)
11:00-12:30 a.m.	Avondale Mine Disaster Site Tour (1-mile hike)
12:45-1:45 p.m.	Box Lunch (eat at Pollocks??)
2:30-4:30 p.m.	Eckley Miners Village Tour (admission \$4)

...continued from page 2

museum admittance. If you come directly to the Trolley Museum you do not have to pay the Steamtown access fee. The Trolley Museum (Scranton is the birthplace of America's electric trolley system) is our historic venue for our Welcoming Reception, with "Hard Coal" entertainment featuring Van Wagner. Attendees need to report to the Lackawanna Coal Mine in McDade Park at 8:30 a.m. for our Friday morning tours. After "Going Down" a 1,300-foot slope for the underground mine tour we will visit the adjacent Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, followed by a box lunch.

Our first paper sessions commence Friday afternoon at the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center (LHVC), where we will hold the remainder of our conference. The LHVC is located in Mayfield, north of Scranton towards Carbondale. We will provide directions to LHVC at registration, but for those of you that miss initial registration, directions are written at the end of this article. Following an afternoon of paper sessions we will have our annual Awards Banquet in the Atrium of the Center. Saturday will feature presentations, the Presidential Luncheon, and the annual business meeting. Dinner will be on your own. Folks may return to LHVC in the evening for a special showing of Paramount's 1970 Sean Connery/Richard Harris movie "The Molly Maguires" about miner unrest, violence, and intrigue in the anthracite region in the 1870s.

Our Sunday tour to the famous New Jersey Zinc Mining District will be another highlight of the conference. We will depart LHVC early on bus(es) for an approximate 1-1/2 hour ride. If we don't have enough folks to fill a second bus, we may rent a van or work out a carpool arrangement. We will spend most of the day touring the Sterling Hill

Mining Museum and the Franklin Mineral Museum with a box lunch at Sterling Hill. The fluorescent minerals and mining equipment will be memorable. An early evening return to Scranton will be the end of the formal part of the conference.

The optional post-Conference tour (caravan-style) on Monday includes a tour of the Huber Breaker site in Ashley, Pennsylvania, a little south of Wilkes-Barre. The Huber Breaker Preservation Society will tell us of the progress of their efforts to save and restore this industrial site. In Plymouth Township we will then hike to the site of the 1869 Avondale Mine Disaster, where 108 men and boys died in a fire. Finally we will drive to Eckley Miners Village (where "The Molly Maguires" was filmed) and tour this special coal-mining town preserved by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Sturdy shoes are required for the first two stops.

Lodging choices include motels and several B&B's. We have made arrangements for group rates at three local inns. These accommodations are located north of Scranton, close to I-81, but south of Mayfield. We have a block of 30 rooms set aside at the Days Inn for \$75 + tax per night. The Days Inn is located at 1946 Scranton-Carbondale Hwy, I-81 exit 191A, telephone 570-383-9979; cutoff date is June 1, 2005 for the conference rate. We also have a block of 10 rooms (and may be able to get more if needed) at the Fairfield Inn for \$79.99 + tax per night. The address is 949 Viewmont Drive, Dickson City, PA, telephone 570-346-3222, off I-81 exit 190; cutoff date is 1 month prior to the conference. Both motels feature at least continental breakfasts, swimming pools, and other amenities. There are many restaurants in the area. The Comfort Inn, located off I-81 exit 194 at 811 Northern Blvd., Clarks Summit, PA,

telephone 570-586-9100 has another block of 10 rooms available for a discounted rate of \$71.10 + tax per night; rooms will be held until May 27, 2005. With all of these be sure to ask for the Mining History Conference rate. There are several more chain motels in the vicinity of exit 194.

Most folks will need to provide their own transportation, so a rental car is necessary. The area is rather spread out. For a limited number of folks who really need transportation, we will make arrangements for them to get from event to event.

Directions to Lackawanna Heritage Valley Center (LHVC), 1300 Old Plank Road, Mayfield, PA 18433 ([www.lhva.org](http://www.lhva.org)); phone: 570-876-6188. From the South: Take I-81 north through (or from) Scranton, passing exits 185 (Central Scranton Expressway) and 186 (Dunmore/Drinker Street), then take the access ramp labeled "Route 6 East – Carbondale" onto U.S. Route 6 (Robert Casey Hwy.). Follow Rte. 6 east to Exit 6 "Meredith Street" (approx. 12 miles); turn left at the end of the exit ramp. At the first and only traffic light turn left onto Business Rt. 6. The LHVC is located at the first intersection, approx. ¼-mile from the light, immediately past the Mobil gas station. The intersection is a fork in the road between Business Route 7 and Old Plank Road. Parking for the LHVC Main Entrance (blue steel canopy facing the Lackawanna River) is located on the north side of the building near the Route 6 entrance. From I-81 North (or the vicinity of the local inns mentioned) take Business Route 6/Dickson City north for 9.3 miles and turn right at the bottom of the hill after you pass Alexander's Restaurant and just before the Mobil gas station.

Johnny Johnsson

## Book Reviewers Wanted

If you are interested in reviewing books for the Mining History Journal, please contact the Journal's editor, Eric Clements at [eclements@sermo.edu](mailto:eclements@sermo.edu). Be sure to indicate your subject areas of interest and expertise.

## Miners' Story Project

The Miners' Story Project will preserve and share stories about life in mines and mining communities in the Southwest US. These stories will be captured on high quality digital audio recordings, and will enrich and enliven the exhibits at the University of Arizona's Mineral Museum when it moves to its new Downtown Tucson location in 2008 as part of the new University of Arizona Science Center.

Recording sessions will be held in a mobile "Story Trailer," which will visit towns around Arizona and New Mexico. Anyone with mining stories (current miners, former miners, family and friends of miners) is invited to come for a fun and relaxed trip down memory lane.

These stories will live for generations to come and will help young people (and even the young at heart!) learn about the history and importance of mining in the Southwest.

To arrange for an interview or check trailer locations:

phone 1-866-40-MINER (1-866-406-4637)  
email [info@minersstory.org](mailto:info@minersstory.org)  
online [www.minersstory.org](http://www.minersstory.org)

### 2005 Schedule

Clifton, Arizona  
March 14-May 15

Silver City, New Mexico  
May 30-July 31

Bisbee, Arizona  
August 15—October 15

**2006**  
**MHA Conference**  
**Globe, Arizona**

# MHA 2005 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

## SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, JUNE 16-20, 2005

### Attendee Information (Please print or type)

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name (for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse's Name (for name badge): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City / State / Zip / Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a current member of MHA (check mailing label for "2005")

### Conference Registration

Event	Cost per Attendee	Number Attending	Total per Event
Conference Registration: MHA members (no charge for spouse)	\$45*		
Conference Registration: Non-Members (no charge for spouse)	\$50*		
Thursday Reception	\$10		
Friday Tour of Lackawanna Coal Mine & Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum (includes box lunch)	\$20		
MHA Annual Banquet	\$25		
MHA Presidential Luncheon	\$15		
Saturday Night Activity-The Molly Maguires	\$8		
Sunday Bus Tour-New Jersey Zinc District (Sterling Hill Mining Museum, Franklin Mineral Museum, includes box lunch)	\$45		
Monday Post-Conference Tour Box Lunch (Huber Breaker, Avondale Disaster Site, Eckley Miners Village pay as you go)	\$10		
<b>Total Payment</b>			

\* \$10 discount for registrations post-marked 4/15/05; \$5 discount for registrations post-marked by 5/15/05; children 12 and under are included with parents' registration and half-price for tours and meals.

### Payment Information

Make Checks Payable to: Mining History Association (All payments must be made in U.S. dollars only)  
 Mail completed registration form and payment to:

**Mining History Association  
 c/o Johnny Johnsson  
 2622 Deer Park Road  
 Finksburg, MD 21048-2212**

*Mining History Association  
Colorado School of Mines Library  
1400 Illinois St.  
Golden, CO 80401*

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



---

## *Mining History Association*

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. Annual membership: general \$25, international \$35, sustaining \$50, patron \$100, and corporate \$500. Send check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the Mining History Association, Colorado School of Mines Library, 1400 Illinois St., Golden, CO 80401.

Website: [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org)

Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged and should be sent to Mark and Karen Vendl, email: [mkvendl@earthlink.net](mailto:mkvendl@earthlink.net)

Deadlines:            March issue: February 15  
                              June issue: May 15  
                              September issue: August 15  
                              December issue: November 15

Change of address : Please send any changes to your address to Robert Sorgenfrei, membership, Mining History Association, Colorado School of Mines Library, 1400 Illinois St., Golden, CO 80401.

Robert Weldin, president  
Ron Brown past-president  
Dawn Bunyak, secretary  
James E. Fell, Jr., treasurer  
Robert Sorgenfrei, membership  
Silvia Pettem, council member, 2003-2005  
Duane Smith, council member, 2003-2005  
Robert Trennert, council member, 2004-2006  
Erik Nordberg, council member, 2004-2006