



Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

A Publication of the Mining History Association

Summer 2019

Presidential Pickings

Thanks, and Many Thanks

Thank you. Two small words that say so much. After a great conference in Marquette, there are some Thank Yous that need to be shared. To Mark and Lynn Langenfeld, thank you and a job well done. Your thorough planning led to a nearly flawless (typos notwithstanding!) conference. I know that you had been sweating the details for months, but your persistence and patience paid off with great venues and tours. Program Chair Terry Reynolds did a lot of the heavy lifting involved in putting together the paper sessions, for which fellow committee members Erik Nordberg and myself were grateful. A big thank you to Paul Spyhalski for stepping forward as our newsletter editor and to Barb Clements for helping Paul with formatting and logistics. We are all grateful for your willingness to help the organization.

Now, for some personal Thank Yous. Past president Peter Maciulis helped smooth my early transition into the presidency, for which I was grateful. He made sure that a few important details did not fall through the cracks, and was always willing to share advice and opinions. Brian Leech, thanks for helping remind me of what to do when during our meetings. I also want to offer my thanks to the conference organizing committees for 2020 in Elko, NV and 2021 in Birmingham, AL. I know that this is a big job and I am appreciative for all the work you will put in. Lastly, thank you to everyone who made the trip to Marquette. I hope you enjoyed, and maybe were surprised by, the beauty that those of us from the Midwest take for granted. See you in Elko!

Help Us Get the Word Out

We all know people or groups that should know about MHA and what we do, but the challenge is how to let them know. Are you a member of a group (AIME, SIA, SME, etc.) with like-minded individuals as members? Does your group have a newsletter, or some other method, to communicate with members? Are you, as a member, able to submit items for publication? If you answer "yes" to these questions, you can help us get the word out about our upcoming conferences and award opportunities. Please email me, Stephanie Saager-Bourret (saagerbs@gmail.com) and I will put you on the list to be notified when the Call for Papers comes out, and when registration opens for the conference, so that you can pass the word along. Thanks for helping us grow our membership.

A Suggestion and a Challenge

MHA member Bill Hawes has suggested the Silver Valley of Idaho (Kellogg-Wallace) for the site of the 2022 annual conference in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Sunshine Mine Fire. This tragic event greatly altered mining forever and changed the perception of mine safety. There are still a few survivors of that rescue and recovery. It would be a good and likely final opportunity to hear of the events from the people involved. There is an organizing effort for the commemoration which would kick in high gear if the Mining History Association would indicate an interest in returning to the Silver Valley. *Here is the challenge: this would require someone on the ground in the area to head up the MHA part of the effort.* If you are interested, or have someone to suggest, please get in touch with a council member.

Stephanie Saager-Bourret
MHA President

Research Grants

There were 23 submissions to our MHA Research Committee for assistance in funding mining related research. The Committee winnowed the applications down to three which were funded and announced during our Awards Banquet.

PhD Candidate Jennifer Dunn of Montana State University is receiving a \$750 grant to fund a research trip to Libby, Montana in support her project “Libby, Montana and Superfund: The Future of Post-Industrial Mining Communities in the American West.”

Dr. Heather Green, then a Postdoctoral Fellow at the L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario will receive \$750 to support a research trip to Arizona for her project “Coal Mining, Energy Production, and Indigenous Activism in Northeast Arizona, 1950 to 2019.” Dr. Green will be beginning a position as an Assistant Professor of History at St. Mary’s University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dr. Green presented at our Conference in Deadwood

Dr. Cory Fischer-Hoffman, a Visiting Assistant Professor in International Affairs at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, will receive \$750 grant to fund a research trip to La Serena, Chile in support of her research project “A Subterranean History, Bethlehem Steel’s Iron Mines in Chile (1913-1971).”

Calling All MHA Authors – Publicity Opportunity:

Annually the Mining History News includes a section in the Fall issue highlighting mining books written by our members during the past year or two. These announcements supplement but do not replace the traditional list of publications and book reviews in the Mining History Journal and serve as an additional way to bring your work to the attention of the entire membership of the MHA.

In order to participate, please send the complete bibliographic information (author, title, publisher, publisher location and year, number of pages, binding, price and ISBN) plus a 100-150 word summary to Paul Spyhalski at prspyhal@yahoo.com. Please include “MHA” at the start of the subject line. The deadline for inclusion in the Fall issue is September 1st.

Attention Potential Vendors

The MHA will be meeting in Elko, NV June 11-14, 2020. On Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13, vendor tables will be available at \$35 per table in a location adjacent to the session rooms.

The Conference attracts people from across the U.S. and world that interested in mining books, artifacts and other collectible items. Persons interested in being a vendor should contact Richard Reid at richardreid.geo@gmail.com

Mining History Association Awards

The MHA establishes various committees to annually review applications and nominations and to decide whether to issue certain awards. The process culminates with the announcement of award winners at the MHA Awards Banquet. This past year's award winners were:

The **Rodman Paul Award** is given in honor of scholar and mining historian Rodman Paul whose influence in the field of Western mining research inspired a generation of future mining historians. The Award is given for outstanding contributions to mining history.

This year's recipient of the Rodman Paul Award is former MHA President and current Collections Manager at the Colorado School of Mines **Ed Raines**. The Rodman Paul Award Committee noted that this year's award was given for Ed's scholarship, manifold mining history programs and outreach, and publications concerning the mining history, geology, and mineralogy of multiple Colorado mining districts.

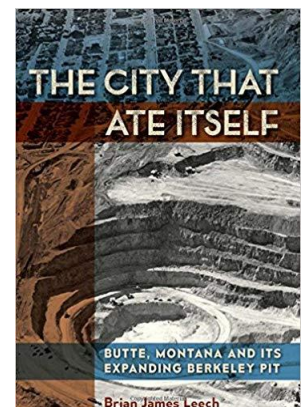
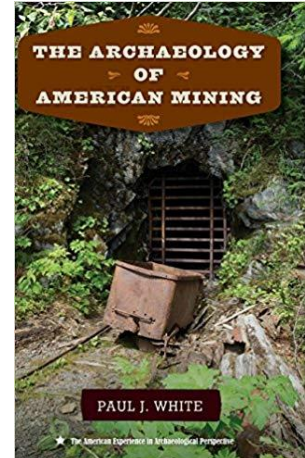
The **Cherry Hunter (Mining Art) Award** honors both its namesake and the award recipient whose works show outstanding commitment to and skill in recording mining history through graphic arts. This year's Cherry Hunter Award recipient is **Sue Hand** of Dallas, PA. Her work *The Anthracite Miners and Their Hallowed Ground* is a 300 piece acrylic/collage expressionism series memorialized Pennsylvania's miners. Her current project pays tribute again through "Coal Breaker Communities – Faded Memories." (www.suehand.com)

The **Besleme-Orrel Heritage Award** recognizes outstanding achievements that contribute to the understanding and appreciation of our mining heritage. The Besleme-Orrell Heritage Award was presented to **The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums** for their exhibition entitled "African American Lead Miners in Wisconsin."

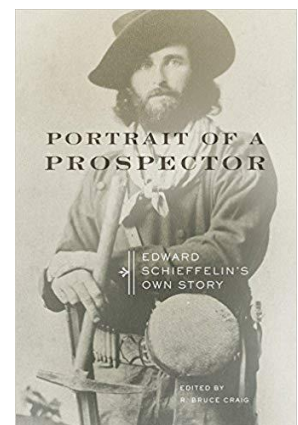
John Townley published the first Mining History Journal. The **John Townley Award** is given in honor of this achievement to the best essay published in the MHA Journal in the previous issue. This year's John Townley Award was given to **Gage McKinney** for his article "Order L-208: The Closing of America's Gold Mines during World War II."

The Association recognizes mining history books in two categories. The **Clark Spence Award** recognizes the best book in mining history based on the high academic standards of the award's namesake. The **Mary Spence Award** recognizes books that are edited works, compilations of documents, significant photographic histories or related genres.

Clark Spence Awards were presented to **Paul J. White** and **Brian James Leech** for their respective works:



A Mary Spence Award was presented to **R. Bruce Craig** as editor of the following work:



With the passing of the Presidential Pick on June 8th, your MHA Officers, Council, Board and Committee Members are officially:

Officers

Stephanie Saager-Bourret, President
Eric Nystrom, Vice President/ President-elect
Peter Maciulitis, Past President
James E. Fell, Treasurer
Brian Leech, Secretary

Council Members

Terry Reynolds	2017-2020
Catherine Spude	2017-2020
Stephen S. Hart	2018-2021
David Valentine	2018-2021
Fred Barnard	2019-2022
Lorena Campuzano-Duque	2019-2022
John Koerth	2019-2022

Board Members

Eric Clements	Journal Editor
Barbara Clements	Journal Compositor / Social Media
Rebecca Lange	Membership Chair
Michael Kaas	Website Coordinator
Paul Spyhalski	Newsletter Editor

Nominating Committee

Barbara Clements
John Baeten
Ginny Kilander

Budget and Finance Committee

Jay Fell, Chair ex officio
Lynn Langenfeld
Bob Spude
John Stewart
Mark Vendl
Stan Dempsey

MHA Distinguished Service Award Committee

Ed Raines, Chair
Mark Langenfeld

Editorial Board / John Townley Award Committee

Duane Smith, Chair
Silvia Pettem
Ron Brown
Jay Fell
Ron Limbaugh
Jeremy Mouat
Mark Vendl

Rodman Paul Award Committee

Johnny Johnson, Chair
Duane Smith
Karen Vendl

Clark Spence and Mary Spence Award Committee

Ron Brown, Chair
Robert Spude
David Wolff

Cherry Hunter Award

Mark Langenfeld, Chair
Lynn Langenfeld
Mark Vendl
Karen Vendl
Silvia Pettem

Besleme-Orrell Heritage Award Committee

Robert Spude, Chair
Ginny Kilander
Stephanie Saager-Bouret

Research Grants Committee

Brian Leech, Chair
Mica Jorgenson
Eric Nystrom

Thank you to all who are willing to serve the MHA as officers, board members and committee members. The MHA's grateful thanks also go out to those that have completed their terms and the many that continue to serve the MHA in so many ways.

Convention Highlights

Once again, the MHA went above and beyond in providing highly informative educational sessions, tour opportunities and the ability to understand how mining was and is very much part of the DNA for those in the UP. For those unable to attend, please mark your calendars for Elko in 2020 and Birmingham in 2021.

The Thursday tours offered the opportunity to visit Cleveland Cliffs' Tilden Mine. The Tilden is an active taconite mine with the nearby Empire Mine idled. That tour group is shown below:



The Eagle Mine Humboldt Tour also provided the opportunity to learn about the many wheeled ore trucks passing through Marquette travelling between the Eagle Mine and the Humboldt Mill as well as the processes of crushing, grinding and flotation used to get the ore ready for shipping by rail car. The morning tour is shown in front of part of the mill:



The Conference's Welcoming Reception took place at the Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum with plenty of opportunities to tour the grounds. Ishpeming's A and B shaft houses did, indeed, provide a memorable setting for our opening reception.



A visit to the Negaunee High School illustrated how mining is part of the UP's DNA. The school itself is repurposed from the Mather B mine's dry, shops and administrative offices. Dinner included cudighi sandwiches and the opportunity to view the students' documentary film "*A Vanishing Breed – the Men and Memories of the Mather B.*"

On Sunday, we had the opportunity to visit many different sites. Our first stop was the Cardiff Mine headframe:



We then travelled to the Iron County Historical Museum for a tour of the grounds and a traditional pasty lunch. In 1963, the Historical Society received 5.5 acres of land from the Pickands-Mather Company to start a museum. The land included the Caspian mine headframe and engine house. The Caspian headframe is shown below:



The museum also contains an archive and exhibits dedicated to mining. This list of iron mines within Iron County illustrates why the County is called Iron County:



In the afternoon we travelled to the Cornish Pumping Engine and Mining Museum in Iron Mountain. The pump initially used to dewater the Chapin Mine did not disappoint.



The museum also contained an impressive collection of mining related artifacts and a WWII paraglider exhibit. The Ford Motor Company in nearby Kingsford manufactured more Model CG-4A gliders than any other company in the country.



We then travelled to the Iron Mountain tour mine for an opportunity to go underground and hear from Tom Mroz about the history and geology of the area.

The true gem of the conference, however, was the opportunity to visit the Fayette Historical Townsite. Fayette served as a smelting town of the Jackson Iron Company from 1867 to 1891 producing charcoal pig iron from ores in nearby Michigan and Wisconsin.

Still fairly isolated, most town supplies and ore arrived by ship. Limestone was available nearby and the company made its own charcoal. A view of the harbor that was the lifeline for the town is below.



The furnaces themselves certainly made an impressive site from the Superintendent's House.



The town site includes examples of an original lime kiln and a reconstructed charcoal kiln. In addition to the ore production facilities, the town site includes many opportunities to learn about life in Fayette including a company shop, machine shop, company store, hotel and examples of

the various types of homes in which the town residents lived.

Thank you to Troy Henderson for the opportunity to experience historic Fayette!! Also, *thank you to Mark and Lynn Langenfeld for the opportunity to experience mining and mining history in the UP.*

Also, mark your calendars for June 11-14, 2020 in Elko Nevada for your next opportunity to experience mining history with the Mining History Association.

**Preliminary Call for Presentations
30th Annual Conference
Mining History Association
Elko, Nevada – June 11-14, 2020**

The Program Committee of the MHA invites proposals for individual presentations or complete sessions (including a 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 to topic material. Presentations that address mining history of the Elko County area or Nevada in general are, however, particularly welcome given the location of the Conference.

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 attachments to Erik Nystrom (eric.nystrom@asu.edu) by January 1, 2019. Submission by email is required.

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 6536
Boise, Idaho 83707

Upcoming Events

Western History Association Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada
October 16-19, 2020

Mining History Association Conference
Elko, Nevada
June 10-14, 2020

International Mining History Conference
Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario
June 20-23, 2020

Australasian Mining History Conference
Cairns, Queensland, Australia
July, 2020

Mining History Association Conference
Birmingham, Alabama
June 2021

The *Mining History News* is published quarterly by and for the members of the **Mining History Association**. Submissions for the newsletter are encouraged.

Deadlines:	Fall issue:	September 15 th
	Winter issue:	December 15 th
	Spring issue:	February 15 th
	Summer issue:	June 15 th

Submissions for the newsletter should be sent to Paul R. Spyhalski at prspyhal@yahoo.com with MHA at the start of the subject line.

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

Mining History Association
P.O. Box 6536
Boise, ID 83707