



Mining History News

Quarterly Newsletter of the Mining History Association

A Publication of the Mining History Association

Spring 2025

Presidential Pickings: In Praise of the Prosaic?

In January 1914 the magazine *Mine and Quarry* published an article: "Quarrying Marble at Phenix, Missouri." In truth, although the company marketed its product as "Missouri Marble," it was carbonaceous limestone. In the company's defense, the U.S. Bureau of Mines' *Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms* (1968) notes: "Commercially, any limestone that is sufficiently hard and coherent to take a good polish is called a marble." That it was.

The Phenix Stone and Lime Company opened the quarry, twenty miles northwest of Springfield, in the 1880s to produce construction materials and lime for commercial and domestic uses. Reorganized as the Phenix Marble Company in 1905, the company began to develop the deposit's full potential. Its "Napoleon Gray marble" would adorn several state capitols, including Missouri's, numerous post offices and court houses, and public and commercial buildings from San Francisco to New York City.

At the time of the article, Phoenix Marble owned a 270-acre deposit and its two quarries and wholesale and finishing mills produced about half a million cubic feet of stone, lime, and marble annually. The Napoleon marble had "a slight grayish tint, more restful to the eye than the dead white. . . It averages from 98 to 98½ per cent of calcium carbonate, with practically no iron or other impurities. . . . At Phenix the company maintains, in addition to its quarry equipment, a lime kiln, general merchandise store, hotel, boarding houses, cottages for empolye[e]s, and a church."

In 1926 the company employed 125 workers and the town of Phenix had a population of 450. But the Great Depression stalled the stone trade, and much of the company's equipment was scrapped during World War II. Although the deposit was worked fitfully after the war, by 1970 Phenix was all but abandoned. So died another mining town, gone and forgotten without even the saving grace of a gold rush or a silver boom. Why would the history of such a prosaic place even matter?

In a previous century I used to give guided tours at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry at Colorado Springs. By the end of four years of that I became semi-convinced that most people think that electricity comes from wall sockets and food from grocery stores. They have almost no understanding, even awareness, of the industrial processes essential to their existence. My favorite moment during the pandemic, if such is permissible, was the public's sudden, shocked realization that toilet paper is not a given.

What has that to do with us, you ask? Might we have a role in increasing that awareness and understanding? Our association's function is not to proselytize for the industry. Where it merits criticism, we should and certainly have, be it labor relations or environmental effects or financial chicanery. But fair criticism also includes appreciating the industry's significance. As the saying goes, if it can't be grown, it must be mined, and since industrial agriculture is wholly dependent upon mining—fuels, fertilizers, storage, processing, distribution—truly, mining is *the* "basic industry."

Thus, as you know, the question isn't *if* humans will mine, rather *how*. Here mining historians have much to teach, but we also have a problem. Over the twenty years that I've taught my American

West history course, enrollment has dwindled, and not because I'm boring and mean. I've always been boring and mean; that's a control, not a variable. The variable is that students today weren't marinated in westerns growing the way we were. Without John Wayne's theatrics, to them it's just another region. Mining history suffers a similar challenge. At the risk of sending a shock wave through the association, I'll mention that we're now within a generation of the *bicentennial* of the California gold rush. We're a century and a quarter removed from the last bonanzas. Modern mining has gone overseas, retreated to remote places, or hides its operations from public view—out of sight and as quickly out of mind.

So, whither mining history and why? Might stories more local and current, such as Phenix Marble's, bring its lessons home more effectively? I understand the narrative difficulties inherent in such an approach. Carving limestone out of the Ozarks isn't exciting, and quarrying has produced no Guggenheims, no Doc Holliday or Baby Doe. But the public's use of materials such as gypsum, talc, trona, salt, and limestone continues in the present.

As does the Phenix Marble Company. In June 2016 Conco Companies purchased the quarry and began producing exterior and interior cut limestone and marble under the old name, working a resource that will last for generations. Prosaic? Perhaps, but might this also be a useful exemplar for an industry indispensable more than a century after the last gold rush?

The Gunnison Country

On the following pages you will find information about our 2025 convention at Gunnison, Colorado, our first gathering in the Centennial State since 2016. Suffice to say here that the region is rich in mining and railroad history and the natural splendors of the central Rockies and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. There's certainly plenty to see and do. Please join us.

Eric Clements

Upcoming MHA Nugget Talks

March 18, 2025

Dr Otway – Pioneer Quartz Crusher

Neil Huybregts

Meeting ID 862 3211 3090

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86232113090?pwd=a3Qyv7LwQbxBA91TXyM4AA9glpG5J2.1>

April 15, 2025

Gunnison Field Trip and Tour Preview

Steve Hart

Meeting ID 869 2848 1702

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86928481702?pwd=zX5iaCb9ihIHB0ote2MjlU3EfmKbBj.1>

These and past Nuggets will also be available for later viewing and reviewing on the Mining History Association YouTube channel.

Election Results

With many thanks to all who were willing to serve, the following candidates have been elected to office by and for the MHA:

Vice President / President-elect: Paul Bartos,

MHA Council: Eric Eckberg & Dean Heitt

Nominating Committee: Ginny Kilander



Welcome to the 35th Annual MHA Meeting in Gunnison, Colorado

We welcome you to the 2025 Mining History Association Meeting in central Colorado's Gunnison River valley surrounded on every side by scenic mountain ranges, including the state's highest 14,000' peaks. Regardless of your route to Gunnison, you will traverse the rugged Sawatch, Collegiate, San Juan, Elk, and/or West Elk Mountains. The Gunnison Country Chamber of Commerce (chamberdirector@gunnison.com) is available to help plan your trip, so make it a vacation with stops at the many scenic locations along your route.

Introduction to Gunnison Country History

The importance of minerals from the Gunnison Country in the late 19th-century cannot be overemphasized. Although gold and silver brought the first prospectors into Ute lands on Colorado's Western Slope, the region also provided gray Aberdeen granite for the Colorado State Capitol and Yule marble for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was also a major metallurgical-coal mining district for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, so important to CF&I that the mine at Crested Butte was called simply "The Big Mine". In 1952, coal mining ended in Gunnison Valley just as a new boom began--uranium! The ore was mined near Cochetopa Canyon, then milled in Gunnison at the location of the current Gunnison County Airport. In mid-1970s, a new mineral was discovered just west of Crested Butte at Mt. Emmons--molybdenum. But opposition from locals in the by-then ski town of Crested Butte delayed the start of mining by AMAX. The conclusion of that decades-long battle between the company and the town came on August 29, 2024 when a mineral extinguishment was signed by Mount Emmons Mining Company.

The town of Gunnison developed as the center of commerce for the many mining districts and locus of two narrow-gauge railroad lines from the 1880s to the 1950s. In 1880, there were no railroads west of the Continental Divide in Colorado. Only two years later, Gunnison had two 3' narrow-gauge railroads--the Denver & Rio Grande Western from Salida over 10,800' Marshall Pass and the Denver, South Park & Pacific through the 11,600' Alpine Tunnel, the world's highest at that time. Both railroads were pushing toward the rich gold and silver districts of the San Juan Mountains, but only one would make it. For the DSP&P, coal mines near Gunnison were the end-of-the-line, while the D&RGW continued to haul passengers through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison until 1949 and coal from Crested Butte to Pueblo until 1952.

Today, the region's mining past can be seen in towns and ghost mining camps like Lake City, Crested Butte, Pitkin, Ruby-Irwin, Gothic, Floresta, Anthracite, Quartz, Crystal, Whitepine, Powderhorn, and others. Also remaining are railroad towns and ghost towns like Gunnison, Sargents, and Cimarron, although several are now under the water of Blue Mesa Reservoir, Colorado's largest lake. History is even present in its people, many descended from those prospectors, metal miners, and coal miners, even in the now-ski resort town of Crested Butte.

During the Annual Meeting, several of those historic mining districts will be included on field trips. The Lake City-Henson Creek silver-lead district and the Lake City caldera in the San Juan Mountains will be visited on the Wednesday field trip, with a tour of the preserved Ute-Ulay mine and mill. Included in that trip will be a stop at Iron Hill, an unmined, unique-in-the-world carbonatite stock containing thorium, titanium, niobium, and several rare earth metals! The Aberdeen Quarry that provided the State Capitol's gray granite will be toured on the Thursday morning field trip. The historic CF&I coal mining town of Crested Butte and adjacent site of the now-extinguished Mt. Emmons moly project will be visited on Saturday afternoon. And the CF&I "model" company town of Redstone and recent coal company town of Somerset, together with the town of Marble, site of the world-

famous Yule Marble Quarry, will be visited on the Sunday field trip. More information is available below in the individual field trip/tour descriptions.

Registration

All attendees at the Gunnison Annual Meeting must pay the appropriate general registration fee. Additional listed activities and events may be selected and paid for individually. Please make all checks payable to the Mining History Association. Online registration will be processed by Square. Please note that a 3% service fee is automatically added to all Square transactions. Each event/activity can accommodate only a limited numbers of participants and some of our tours have special physical and travel requirements. Therefore, each event registration is on a first come-first serve basis, filled in order of date payment is received. No separate event/activity registration will be accepted during the Annual Meeting. However, on-site general registration for the program sessions will be accepted from June 11-13.

A meeting registration form is included in this newsletter as well as on the MHA website.

MAY 4 is the registration deadline for all events and activities

Accommodations

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for MHA at the Comfort Inn Gunnison and the Wingate by Wyndham Inn in Gunnison. Both are approximately the same driving distance to the University Center at Western Colorado University, where the meeting sessions, Presidential Luncheon, and Business Meeting will be held. Neither hotel is within easy walking distance to those WCU venues.

Wednesday afternoon and Thursday registration will be held in the lobby of the Comfort Inn.. The Thursday afternoon Board Meeting will be in the Conference Room at the Comfort Inn. Both motels have ample free parking, free hot breakfasts, reasonable free WiFi speeds, and indoor swimming pools. The 3-story Comfort Inn has indoor room entrances, an elevator, and a laundry. The 2-story Wingate has outside entrances, stairs, and no elevator.

All motel rooms must be reserved by **May 10, 2025** to receive the MHA Annual Meeting Rate. These rooms must be reserved by phone using "Mining History Association" to receive the group rate:

Comfort Inn: 40 rooms @ \$179/night plus tax, call 970-642-1000.

Wingate Inn: 10 rooms @ \$158/night plus tax, call 970-641-1237.

Formal Sessions/Vendors

The venue for the formal sessions will be the University Center Theater at Western Colorado University. Ample free parking is available at the University Center, but it is not located within convenient walking distance of either motel. Full AV support will be provided. The Saturday Presidential Luncheon will be held in the University Center Ballroom across the hall from the Theater. Vendor tables, accessible during the June 13-14 sessions, will be provided along that hallway. Tables must be cleared by noon on June 14.

A tentative final agenda including the names of presenters and the title of their presentations will be provided electronically to registered attendees after the May 4th registration deadline. A tentative list of presenters and the titles of their presentations will also be posted on the Association website.

2025 Social Events

Three social events are planned at separate venues during the meeting. These include the Thursday Welcoming Reception, the Friday Awards Banquet, and the Saturday Presidential Luncheon. These events are described in more detail below.

Thursday June 12 - Welcoming Reception (No limit):

5:00 - 9:00 pm: Pioneer Museum, 803 E. Tomichi Ave. (US 50)

Located across the highway from McDonald's. Parking is available in front of the Museum and on the south side of the museum complex. Golf carts are available for those with mobility concerns. If you need a golf cart, please park on the south side of the complex.

A light buffet with soft drinks, tea, and water will be provided by WCU Sodexo Catering. Tickets for beer and wine will be provided for an additional fee in the MHA registration packet. Limited seating will be available as the meal is designed to be "portable" while viewing the outdoor Museum exhibits.

The Gunnison Pioneer Museum is a large outdoor venue containing a collection of historical artifacts from all over Gunnison County. Mining, narrow-gauge railroad, ranching, Native American, historic automobile and farm equipment, and historic photo and document exhibits will be available for view by the reception registrants. An 1882 D&RGW steam locomotive and rail cars; the Sargents D&RGW railroad depot; a Marshall Pass water tank; a one-room schoolhouse; the first Gunnison log post office; a dairy barn; mineral, doll, arrowhead, military uniform, firearm, Coors bottle, and other collections; and many other artifacts are housed in exhibit buildings at the Museum.

Friday June 13 - Annual Awards Banquet (Limit 100):

6:00 - 9:00 pm: Palisades Restaurant, 820 N. Main Street (CO 135), Gunnison

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held in the dining room of the Palisades Restaurant, located two blocks from the Comfort Inn. There will be no banquet speaker.

The plated banquet meal will be served and a cash bar will be provided by the Palisades staff. Four meal choices will be provided on the registration form:

New York Strip Steak—grilled with garlic butter, seasonal vegetables, and mashed potatoes

Chicken Milano—grilled with garlic herb vinaigrette marinade, seasonal vegetables, and mashed potatoes

Salmon Fettuccine—grilled and served with fettuccine tossed with creamy pesto sauce and tomatoes, side salad, and warm garlic bread on the side

Pasta Primavera—seasonal vegetables in a sundried tomato wine sauce, tossed with fettuccine, and warm garlic bread on the side

Dessert—strawberry shortcake

Choice of ice tea, coffee, soft drink, and water

Saturday June 14 - Presidential Luncheon (Limit 150):

12:00 - 1:30 pm: WCU Ballroom, University Center

The Presidential Luncheon will be held in the WCU University Center Ballroom across the hall from the Theater. Lunch will consist of a BBQ buffet with smoked beef brisket or chicken, pulled BBQ pork, coleslaw, potato salad, cornbread, and a chocolate brownie. Beverages will include iced tea, lemonade, and iced water (no alcoholic beverages will be available).

2025 Field Trips and Tours

The Gunnison Country is a high-elevation mountain valley carved by the Gunnison River and its three primary tributaries—the Lake Fork, the North Fork, and Tomichi Creek. Elevations range from 7,700' in Gunnison to 11,500' on Slumgullion Pass near Lake City. Early summer daytime temperatures are generally in the 60s-70s and nighttime temps in the 40s. Clear skies, low humidity, and mountain terrain mean sunburn, dehydration, and rough hiking trails may be experienced. So, it is highly recommended that each registrant bring sunscreen, a water bottle, sunglasses, a hat, and sturdy hiking boots. Afternoon thundershowers are also possible, so weather-appropriate clothing is needed.

All field trips and tours will be strictly limited due to transportation, parking, and other site logistics. Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday field trips will leave from the Comfort Inn parking lot. The Friday AM Spouses Tour and the Saturday PM Crested Butte Tour will leave from WCU. Please monitor the MHA Annual Meeting website in case changes are needed.

1) Wednesday, June 11 -- Lake City, Henson Creek, Powderhorn Field Trip (limit 25):

Colorado's Silver Thread Scenic Byway (CO 149) will be the route of the all-day field trip to Powderhorn, Henson Creek, Lake City, and Lake San Cristobal.

Powderhorn is the site of the Iron Hill composite stock, an extensively explored portion of the rare metal-rich White Earth Complex that contains thorium, titanium, selenium, barium, and niobium. Thorium has been found in 33 separate deposits, primarily in NW-trending, mineralized shear zones in foliated pre-Cambrian rocks, in a 6 mile-wide, 20 mile-long area. However, the only mining in the area was for gold and silver during the late 19th century in the Gunnison Gold Belt at Spencer, Midway, and Vulcan, located in an E-W-trend at Nine-Mile Hill.

The nearly circular, volcanic Lake City Caldera lies southwest of the Hinsdale County seat of Lake City. Henson Creek bounds the caldera to the north and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River bounds the east and south. Gold and silver were first discovered in the district in 1871 at the Ute-Ulay claim. Despite the region remaining part of the Ute Tribe reservation, prospectors rushed into the Lake Fork valley to stake claims. By the time that Alfred Packer party's arrived in 1874, Lake City had been established at the confluence of the Lake Fork and Henson Creek as the primary settlement in the region. Difficult transportation access made shipping equipment and milled ore very expensive until the Lake City branch of the 3'-gauge D&RG railroad finally arrived in 1889. However, only 3 years later, silver prices crashed and silver mining throughout Colorado took a nose-dive. Limited precious metal mining continued sporadically in Hinsdale County until the 1960s, but never recovered to its 1880's peak.

One of the longest-lasting mines on Henson Creek was the Ute-Ulay silver-lead mine. Another, the rich Golden Fleece produced gold tellurides from a shaft high above Lake San Cristobal, several miles south of Lake City. By 1945, Hinsdale County mines had produced more than 67,000 ounces of gold and 5,000,000 ounces of silver, plus copper, lead, and zinc, worth more than \$400 million at 2024 prices.

June 11 field trip requirements:

The full-day, 125-mile (RT), self-driving tour is limited to 25 registrants. All must carpool from the Comfort Inn parking lot to Lake City due to limited parking available at the Ute-Ulay Mine and in downtown Lake City. The trip will leave the Comfort Inn at 8:00 AM sharp. Henson Creek road is gravel, somewhat rough due to its use by OHVs, and may be muddy when wet, but 4WD should not be required. Lunch and soft drinks WILL be provided at the picnic pavilion at the city park in Lake City. Each tour member should provide their own water, hat, jacket, sunscreen, and hiking boots. Additional water will be available in Lake City. **Please keep in mind that the Ute-Ulay Mine/Henson townsite has an elevation of 9,235' and that a mile of walking up and down moderate paths may be required.**

2) Thursday AM, June 12 - Aberdeen Quarry Tour (limit 20):

The Aberdeen granite quarry was the source of the exterior, gray granite blocks used in the construction of the gold-domed Colorado State Capitol in Denver. The quarry is located on South Beaver Creek 7 miles SW of Gunnison at an elevation of 7550'. It operated from August 8, 1889 to June 15, 1892 for Capitol construction. Approximately 24,000 tons of granite blocks, ranging from 10-12 tons each, were produced for the Capitol during those 34 months. As the blocks were too large to haul by wagon, the Denver & Rio Grande Western railroad constructed a 5-mile spur from its Denver-Salt Lake City 3' narrow-gauge mainline at its own expense. The spur reached the quarry on August 15, 1889 and was removed after the Capitol was completed. The quarry operated sporadically for another 10 years before its permanent shut-down in 1912. Today, the quarry is owned and managed by the Gunnison Pioneer and Historical Society.

June 12 tour requirements (please read carefully before registering):

The ½-day quarry tour is limited to 20 registrants. All must carpool from the Comfort Inn parking lot to the quarry and the tour will leave the Comfort Inn at 8:00 AM sharp. Lunch will NOT be provided. Each tour member should provide their own water, sunscreen, hat, jacket, and hiking boots. Boots must be suitable for difficult climbing over 200 yards of large, broken, granite scrap. An option to the climb for those who have waders is to wade through 12-18" deep, flowing creek water. **This tour is NOT for those with heart, lung, hip, or knee problems!**

The road to the quarry requires high-clearance and no low-clearance vehicles will be allowed on the tour. This is especially important just before reaching the upper parking lot and the final steep road down. The road from the top of the 75' high quarry face to the bottom has a **25% grade, requiring 4WD and a low-range transfer case. High-clearance vehicles without low-range must park at the upper parking lot, which will hold max of 7-8 vehicles.**

The bottom parking is more limited, with room for only 4-5, 4WD low-range vehicles. The tour will park at top, look over the edge, then people who don't want to walk to the bottom can get in any available 4WD, low-range vehicle. The tour leader, Dave Primus, has a 4WD, low-range truck that holds himself plus 4 passengers. However, multiple trips back up the grade are not possible due to time constraints. So, at least three more 4WD low-range vehicles must be provided by participants to carry those who want to go to the bottom of the quarry in a single trip!

3) Friday Morning, June 13 – Tenderfoot Mountain Spouses Tour (limit 12):

Tenderfoot Mountain, located just SE of Gunnison, is also called "W Mountain" due to its large, mountainside Western Colorado University "W" symbol. In 1991, WCU archaeology professor Dr. Mark Stiger first explored a 9,500 years BP, Clovis-Period, Paleo-Indian encampment on top of the mountain. Today, the more than 85 separate features on the site have yielded more than 35,000 artifacts. This summer, now-emeritus professor Dr. Stiger will be continuing his digs at his "Mountaineer Site". He has graciously offered to lead a tour of the site for spouses and other individuals who may not be interested in attending all the technical sessions.

Tour Requirements:

The half-day, R/T tour is limited to 12 registrants. The tour will leave from the WCU University Center parking lot at 8:00 AM. Transportation will be in a WCU-provided van. **Tour participants should wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen, hat, and jacket (the site is at 8,300', has cool summer mornings, and may be muddy).**

4) Saturday, June 14 - Crested Butte Historic District Walking Tour (limit 15):

Crested Butte was named during the 1873 Hayden Survey of the Territories, when Hayden designated two local mountains as “the crested buttes”. The name stuck and the town was founded in 1878 as a supply town for nearby gold and silver camps. In 1881, the D&RG Railroad arrived to take advantage of the high-quality thermal and metallurgical coal deposits adjacent to the town. The Big Mine produced coal and coke for the blast furnaces of the CF&I steel mill in Pueblo until the mine closure in 1952. Today, the Big Mine Ice Arena occupies the site of the historic mine tipple.

Twenty years later, the Climax Molybdenum Company discovered a huge moly deposit at Mt. Emmons, immediately west of “CB”. However, CB was a rapidly-growing ski town by the mid-1970s and residents strongly opposed a massive underground hard-rock mine near their historic mining town. Only last year, 47 years after the initial state mining permit was approved, a Freeport-McMoRan subsidiary extinguished its mining claims and the land was exchanged with the USFS for public access. The town celebrated the event with “Red Lady” parades and celebrations during the entire first week of September 2024!

Tour Requirements:

The half-day, 60-mile (R/T), self-driving tour is limited to 15 registrants. Registrants should carpool due to extremely limited parking in Crested Butte. The tour will leave from the WCU University Center parking lot immediately following the Presidential Luncheon/MHA Annual Business Meeting. We will park at the CB Visitor Center parking lot, where a free bus will take us downtown. The tour will consist of a one-mile guided walking tour of historic structures in the Town of Crested Butte, including the tipple site of the CF&I Big Mine. After the tour, an hour lecture on the history of Crested Butte and the surrounding mining region will be presented at the Crested Butte Museum by WCU Emeritus History Professor Dr. Duane Vandebusch. Time will also be available to view the exhibits in the museum. After the museum visit, participants will be free to have dinner on their own in Crested Butte’s many dining venues. Just keep in mind that Crested Butte is a VERY popular summer tourist destination and reservations may be required at many restaurants. A Gunnison-Crested Butte Dining Guide will be available in each registration packet. **Tour participants should wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring a water bottle, sunscreen, hat, and jacket (CB is at 8,900’ and has cool summer evenings).**

5) Sunday, June 15 - Somerset-Marble-Redstone Field Trip (limit 25):

Colorado’s West Elk Scenic Byway (CO 92/133) will be the route of the one-way, full-day field trip to a Black Canyon of the Gunnison overlook, the coal company town of Somerset and its current West Elk Mine, Marble and its famous stone quarry, and the historic CF&I model coal/coke company town of Redstone. And, it may be hard to believe with Gunnison as the county seat, but Somerset and Marble are both in Gunnison County (political, not common sense, county boundaries!). Leaving Redstone, accommodations may be found at the Redstone Inn or to the north on CO 133/82 in Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, or Aspen. In Glenwood, I-70 can be accessed to Denver and Grand Junction.

The coal town of Somerset had been owned by Kaiser Steel, US Steel, and several coal companies before the company-owned houses were sold to employees in the 1960s. The Oxbow Mine, owned at the time by Koch brother Bill Koch, closed in 2013, but retained ownership of the town water district. Now the company plans to close the water district because it failed state drinking water standards, leaving the 71 town residents with hauling water. Fortunately for local miners, Core Natural Resource’s West Elk Mine opened just east of town in 1982 with a workforce of 250-300. This underground, longwall mine, now Colorado’s largest, produces 4.6 million tons/year of high-BTU thermal coal for export.

The white marble of the Elk Mountains was first discovered in the 1870s, but the historic Yule Quarry did not open until 1905. The quarry received the contract for the Lincoln Memorial stone in 1917 and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 1931. An electric tramway brought the marble blocks from the mine to the world’s largest

marble finishing mill along the tracks of the Crystal River & San Juan Railway. The tram was so steep that the mine owner, Col. Channing Meek, formerly VP of CF&I, was killed in 1912 when he jumped from a runaway tram car. The mill was destroyed by an avalanche in 1912 and a fire in 1925, but rebuilt each time. However, due to the Depression and WWII, the quarry and mill closed and the equipment was sold for scrap in 1941. The quarry, now owned by the Italian parent company of Colorado Stone Quarries, reopened in 1990, but the new marble finishing plant was built in Delta, Colorado.

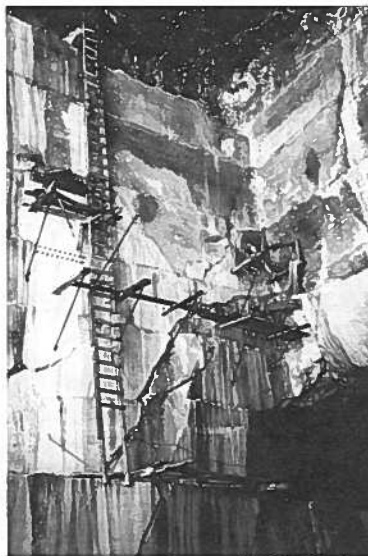
The 1901 company town of Redstone was the brainchild of CF&I owner John Cleveland Osgood. Due to labor unrest in other coalfields, he decided to create a "show model" company town along the east bank of the Crystal River for his 200+ coking plant workers (miners lived 8 miles west and 3,000' up a steep grade in "Coaltown"). He also constructed his personal home, "Cleveholm Manor", and a gamekeeper's cottage a mile south of Redstone. Redstone contained a long street of Craftsman-style single-family homes with yards for a garden and cow, a large boarding house for single workers, a school, a volunteer fire house, and a company store, complete with company scrip. Now, the boarding house is the Redstone Inn, the miner's lamphouse is the history museum, the town is a national historic district, and the abandoned coke ovens have been restored.

June 15 field trip requirements:

The full-day, 130-mile (O/W), self-driving tour is limited to 25 registrants and box lunches and soft drinks WILL be provided. The trip will leave the Comfort Inn parking lot at 8:00 AM sharp! The trip from Gunnison to Redstone will be over paved state highways, steep switchbacks on McClure Pass, and the 6-mile, gravel Marble Road. Due to limited parking available in Marble and Redstone, some local carpooling may be required during the trip. All registrants should provide their own water, long pants, jacket, hat, sunscreen, and hard-sole hiking boots or shoes. Additional water will be available in Marble and Redstone. **Please keep in mind that Marble has an elevation of 8,000' and that more than a mile of walking on paved and gravel paths may be required during the trip.**



The Black Canyon of the
Gunnison River



The Yule Marble Quarry



Restored Redstone Coke Ovens

Tentative Conference Schedule – June 11-15, 2025

A more complete conference schedule including the names of the individual presenters and the title of their presentations will be made available to registrants after May 4th. Also, please visit the MHA website for additional information about the individual presenters and their topics for each session

Wed June 11 Full Day Field Trip to Powderhorn and Lake City (8:30 to 5 p.m)

Thu June 12 4WD Tour (optional) of Aberdeen Granite Quarry (8:00 a.m. to noon)

MHA Board Meeting (Comfort Inn) (1 to 4 p.m.)

Opening Reception – Pioneer Museum (5 to 9 pm.)

Fri June 13 Spouses Tour – Tenderfoot Mountains (9:00 a.m. to noon)

Program Sessions – Theater at University Center (3 presentations per session)

Session 1 – Orientation to Gunnison (8:00 to 9:15 a.m.)

Session 2 – Gold in the Colorado Rockies (9:25 to 10:35 a.m.)

Session 3 – Gunnison, Gold and Beyond (10:50 a.m. to noon)

Lunch (on your own) (noon to 1 p.m.)

Program Sessions – Theater at University Center (multiple presenters per session)

Session 4 – Mining History in Leisure and Play (1:15 to 2:05 p.m.)

Session 5 – Hinsdale County Mining (2:20 to 3:30 p.m.)

Session 6 – Western Mining: Practices, People, and Politics (3:45 to 5:00)

Annual Banquet – Palisades Restaurant, 820 N. Main, (6:00 to 9:00 p.m.)

Sat Jun14 Program Sessions – Theater at University Center (multiple presenters per session)

Session 7 – Comparative Approaches to Mining History (8:30 to 9:40)

Session 8 Mining History and Prose (9:50 to 10:40 a.m.)

Session 9 – Mining History in the Recent Past (10:50 to Noon)

Presidential Luncheon w/ President's Lecture, WCU Ballroom (Noon to 1:30)

MHA Annual Business Meeting (1:30 to 2:00 p.m.)

Field Trip to Crested Butte and Crested Butte Museum (2:30 to 6:00 p.m.)

Dinner on your own

Sun Jun 15 Full Day Field Trip to Somerset, Marble, and Redstone (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

MHA 2025 Conference Registration Form Gunnison, Colorado – June 11-15, 2025

Your Name (for badge): _____

Spouse/Partner/Child Name (for badge): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip/Country: _____

Email / Telephone: _____

☐ Please list me in the conference packet ☐ I am a current member (2025 on mailing label)

EVENT	COST PER ATTENDEE	NUMBER ATTENDING	TOTAL PER EVENT
Conference Registration: Members = \$80; Non-Members = \$90; Student (provide ID No.)/Child (12-17) = \$30; Spouse/Partner = \$60	\$80/\$90 \$30/\$60		
MHA Annual Membership (U.S. / International) – includes MH Journal	\$35/\$45		
Vendor's 6 ft. table in Theater hallway	\$50		
Thursday Reception: Buffet at Pioneer Museum: \$35 for museum admission, buffet, and non-alcoholic drink; +\$10 for beer/wine ticket	\$35 \$10		
Friday Awards Banquet (plated dinner with cash bar) CIRCLE CHOICE(S) 1. NY Strip Steak 2. Grilled Chicken Milano 3. Grilled Salmon Fettucine 4. Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)	\$35		
Saturday Presidential Luncheon (BBQ buffet, dessert)	\$35		
Tour #1 (Wed) Lake City/Henson Creek/Powderhorn (carpool)	\$25 (max 25)		
Tour #2 (Thurs. AM) Aberdeen Quarry: One 4WD, high clearance, low-range vehicle needed per 4 registrants; check box if you can provide vehicle <input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 (max 20)		
Tour #3 (Fri. AM spouses tour) Tenderfoot Mountain (van)	\$10 (max 12)		
Tour #4 (Sat. PM) Crested Butte guided walking tour (carpool)	\$25 (max 15)		
Tour #5 (Sun) Somerset/Marble/Redstone (one-way, self-drive)	\$65 (max 25)		
TOTAL PAID			

No on-site meal or field trip registrations available

You may register online at www.mininghistoryassociation.org/Gunnison2025.htm (an additional 3% fee will be applied to credit card transactions) or by mail by printing this form and mailing with your check. If paying by mail, make checks payable to the *Mining History Association*, and mail your completed Registration Form and payment no later than May 4, 2025 to:

Mining History Association 2025 - KJass
PO Box 503
Broomfield, CO 80038

For additional conference information, contact Steve Hart: Stephen_hart45@msn.com

