



**AUSTRALASIAN
MINING
HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

All correspondence to: Mel Davies
Business School, Economics MBDP M251
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Highway,
Crawley 6009, W. Australia
Tel. (W) 08-64882926 (H) 08-92953265
Fax: 08-92956624
E.mail: mel.davies@uwa.edu.au

Newsletter No. 1 MARCH 2013

Patron: Professor Geoffrey Blainey, AC

ABN 96 220 329 754

ISSUE 72

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

EDITORIAL

Rather than looking at mining history, why not consider mining in the future? This thought has been inspired by an article in the *West Australian* of 21 February that reported on some of the discussions at the 'Off Earth Mining Forum' held recently at the University of NSW. The discussion, quoting lawyer Donna Lawler, is based on the anticipation that mining missions to the moon might be with us sooner than we think. With the private sector in the US becoming involved in space travel and major space powers looking at the moon and Mars for their mineral potential then the attraction of such projects is certainly on the agenda.

While an exciting thought, the problems will not only involve adopting technologies to function in low-gravity environments but will also raise the problems that emerge regarding legal matters associated with ownership and a mind-boggling array of other legal niceties that will have to be determined by the major powers. There is already in place an Outer Space treaty signed by all major space powers in 1967, and also a later Moon Agreement that has been signed by these powers, including Australia. Before any mining activity takes place the treaty members will meet to develop an international governing

regime and policies – no doubt a long and involved process that will tax the minds of space(d) lawyers over eons of time. Such will no doubt make the mining royalties problems of our present Australian regimes seem paltry alongside the complexities of international infighting and disagreements that will eventuate.

If you're thinking of putting your money into a venture, it might be a better bet to invest in the legal fraternity than in the mining activities that will be supporting them. Just a thought for the future!

JOURNAL

My usual appeal at this time of year: Have you a manuscript that you'd like considered for publication in the journal? If so, an early submission would be greatly appreciated. The processing takes time and so the earlier the submission the better. New authors particularly welcome, so please don't feel shy about getting your work considered for Volume 11.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

**AMHA 19th Annual Conference 29 September – 4 October 2013
Beechworth, Victoria**

The programme for the Beechworth Conference has now been finalized by Mike and Nick Williams and their keen band of helpers, and a very promising

programme it appears to be. An appeal was made in the previous newsletter for presentations, but since then the closing date for titles and abstracts as been put forward to **2 July**. As a reminder, if interested in presenting a paper please include a title and a brief outline (no more than **250 words**) accompanied by brief autobiographic details. These should be sent to Nicola Williams at nicola.williams@monash.edu.

The registration forms are now available and early registration would be appreciated by the local organisers.

10th International Mining History Congress, Charters Towers, QLD, 2014

We can now confirm that the 10th IMHC meeting will be run in at Charters Towers in conjunction with the 20th AMHA Conference between **8 - 14 July 2014**. A call for papers will be announced on 30 April with a closing date of 28 February 2014. Expressions of interest have already been received from overseas mining historians and we are sure that this will also apply to homegrown members keen to mix it with their international colleagues.

NAMHO 'Mining Legacies' Conference, Aberystwyth, Wales, 28 June to 1st July'13

The conference under the auspices of the British Association of Mining History Organisation focuses on the legacies of past mining activity. Held at Aberystwyth University, lying on the coast of mid-Wales, provides an ideal venue considering the many relevant mine sites in the immediate hinterland.

The uplands of mid-Wales are rich with examples of metal mining from the Bronze Age through to the 20th century. Its historic landscape has been molded by the activities of man over thousands of years and the interpretation of its archaeology, and its environmental and cultural impact tells a story relevant across a much wider area.

The conference that brings together mining historians and archaeologists from across Britain, Ireland and further afield

to share their work and experiences promises to be a stimulating educative and social occasion.

The web site can be accessed through: www.namhoconference.org.uk

The contact for the organizing group is AMHA member Peter Claughton at: P.F.Claughton@exeter.ac.uk

WW1 Tunnellers

Member Sue Baker Wilson has reported on developments associated with the NZ Engineers Tunnelling Company (NZETC) that may be of interest to members. She writes:

In April 2012 a group of descendants and supporters went overseas on a NZETC pilgrimage. I believe the April tour was the first NZ WW1 unit specific descendants tour. The video link on the trip and other details can be found on the NZETC Updates page

<http://www.nzetc.co.nz/text/updates.html>

or you can go direct to the Youtube page to view the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=625LKJahelA&feature=youtu.be>

Sue notes that as we head towards WW1 centennial commemorations there will be an increased focus on the activities and men of the Tunnelling Companies from Britain and the Dominions.

On the <http://www.nzetc.co.nz> Homepage you will read that the Arras Tourist Office (ATO) is appealing for photos of tunnellers required for a 2017 photographic exhibition of NZ tunnellers.

Sue has recently put up a NZETC Facebook page. Her understanding is that this is the first NZ WW1 unit specific Facebook page. It provides a place for NZETC descendants and supporters to share, touch base with each other and to build on plans to support WW1 commemorations. See:

<http://www.facebook.com/NZTunnellingCompany>

As we head towards WW1 commemorations in 2014-2018 Sue would encourage members of the AMHA to consider ways the organization can assist in remembering the miners who fought overseas during WW1.

INFORMATION WANTED

Mining Deaths Register: Central Goldfields of Western Australia

Moya Sharp of *Outback Family History* has been working on a Mining Deaths Register of WA's Central Goldfields for over eight years. The project was started because of the many enquiries received from people searching for details on their mining ancestors. Moya realised that there was nowhere that anyone could access this information and decided that the data should be available to all at no cost and that it should be as accurate, complete and as up to date as possible.

Only in the last few months has the data been uploaded and available on her web site. This coincides with her engagement by the *Miners Memorial Committee* to supply the names to be engraved on the memorial. She is constantly adding and correcting this as an ongoing project which will be available online and which will be open to alterations, additions and corrections.

Although there is no such thing as a perfect historical record, Moya has endeavoured to confirm each entry with at least two primary sources. At present the data includes, surname, first names, age, date of death, name of mine where the accident occurred, location of the mine and burial details. As a large percentage of miners in the area were migrants the aim has been to include both the proper name and the name that they were known by for example, Bertolo = Bert, and Stephanovich = Stevens.

It is the intention to expand the data and to include photographs of people, headstones, and copies of newspaper articles and notices, plus any biographical material. On request, Moya can add a link to the email address of the donor of any data submitted so that others from the same family can get in touch.

The following are some of the sources that have been consulted to gather data:

- Newspapers, both online and printed.
- Published Family Histories.

- Department of Mines Records.
- Sources at the Miners Hall of Fame.
- Death Certificates/Coronial Records.
- State Records Office SRO – Mining Engineers annual reports and notes on coronial inquests.
- Many books on the History of the Goldfields of WA.
- Invaluable help has also been provided by Peter Bridge of Hesperian Press, along with donations of information and documents by relatives and interested persons.
- Oral Histories from the Oral History Society, courtesy of Dr Criena Fitzgerald have also been utilised, as have Cemetery and burial records from around WA. Moya has also been fortunate to have the support of both the Shire of Leonora and Wiluna.

At present the area covered includes: north to Meekatharra/Sandstone, south to Norseman and west to Southern Cross. It is her intention to expand these areas as information comes to hand.

The above mentioned Memorial was originally to have been erected at the Miners and Prospectors Hall of Fame but due to the closure of the hall it was decided that it be located in the front courtyard of the Kalgoorlie-Boulder WA Museum in Hannan Street. The design will be in a chevron pattern on a free standing wall containing granite tablets with engraving attached to the wall. The names will be in gold leaf and there will be a roof over it all to protect it from the elements.

When all is complete there will be an opening ceremony. Any interested parties are welcome to make an expression of interest and will be kept informed of progress.

The criteria that must be met for a miner to be included on the Miners Memorial are as follows:

Death must have occurred due to a mine accident to do with the deceased's work on a mine site.

It can be included if the deceased was not killed outright but died from injuries elsewhere, for example, in hospital.

The location of the mine must fall in the designated area marked on map (see web page address below).

Any new entry request must be accompanied by documentation.

Any corrections must also include some documentation such as copy of death certificate etc.

Additional information will be welcomed to add to the roll, photographs, newspaper article, etc.

Corrections and additions can be made to the online roll at no cost but should a correction be needed to the engraving each case will be reviewed by the board.

If anyone have any information they wish to contribute or add Moya would be most happy to hear from you. For further information see the website at:

www.outbackfamilyhistory.com.au

Boggers and Skipmen – job designations underground

Member Scott Wilson is also involved in the above-mentioned Miners Memorial project and as a result has become interested in drawing up a list of underground job designations. Its Scott's intention to develop this list and he invites any members with knowledge of what a job title means to contact him if they have a designation not mentioned on his list, or if they have a different interpretation of what is entailed under a specific job description.

For example:

Bogger – An underground miner who digs out (shovels) broken ore or mullock from the work face. (in more modern times a Bogger can also describe a powered wheeled or track vehicle used for this purpose. So someone operating this machine can be referred to as a Bogger or Bogger Driver)

Platelayr:

Does this description refer to a workman who laid rail tracks for the ore trucks to transport the ore and mullock through the mine?

Pass Runner:

A Pass or Ore Pass was a steep Raise (or Rise) used for tipping broken rock between levels. Did this job involve ensuring the free movement of this rock through the 'Pass'?

You can contact Scott at: murchison@bigpond.com and view the list at: www.outbackfamilyhistory.com.au

Proceedings for National Library

Peter Bell is trying to make sure the holdings of the National Library of Australia include a complete set of AMHA conference booklets. According to the catalogue they have the booklets from the 1996-2000, 2003, 2006, 2008-2010 and 2012 conferences. The early conferences didn't have a booklet as we do now.

Does anyone have a spare set of conference papers (at least a program and abstracts if there was no booklet) for the conferences held in 2001 (Kalgoorlie), 2002 (Brisbane), 2004 (Newcastle), 2005 (Bendigo), 2007 (Armidale) and 2011 (Hahndorf)?

If you can spare them (or photocopy them), can you please email Peter at pbell.2@bigpond.com Don't just send them to him, or he'll end up with a pile of duplicates.

Eureka Stockade and Frederick Vern

For many years Gerald Jenzen has been trying to document information on Frederick Vern. Frederick Vern played a significant part as a miner in the Eureka Stockade affair but further information on him is limited. He is claimed to have been born in Hanover, Germany in 1832 or perhaps a little earlier and may have been in America before coming to Australia.

While his time and activities in Ballarat and Victoria from about 1852 to about 1862 are generally known, he then relocated to Forbes N.S.W in 1862 and was elected as a member of the Local Mining Court on 11 October 1862.

The *Lachlan Observer and Miners Advocate* reported meetings of the Court (in which Vern appears to have been quite prominent) but unfortunately it ceased

publication on 31 December 1862. Gerald has been unable to find any details of this Mining Court following the close of the Newspaper. It is known that Vern was still in Forbes until at least late 1863. Gerald is particularly interested as to whether any records of the court exist and if so where they might be accessed? Vern resigned from this Court and if so, when and why, or did his term of appointment simply expire? Any other information on Vern would also be appreciated. He was last reported as being on the Macquarie in 1864 but thereafter no details of him can be found.

Should anyone have any information that might assist Gerald, he can be contacted at gmjenzen@bigpond.com

Elementary dear Watson!

Our Kiwi sleuth 'Sherlock' Philip Hart is on the investigative trail again. This time it's to track down a gentleman who was described in the local NZ press as 'an expert based in Melbourne'. He visited Waiorongomai in January 1888 and reported favourably (too favourably) on the mines, machinery, and tramways, etc., of the New Era Company. The only name given is 'Gibson' – should anyone out there know of such an 'expert' from the 1880s would you please contact Philip at: prhart@waikato.ac.nz

BITS & PIECES

A Tassie sojourn – a Geologists sense of humour!

Ken McQueen was on the 'tin trail' in Tasmania recently when he came across a sign at Halls Falls that said:

TIMBER & TIN – from water and weir

You can see signs of past history along the walking track. Some of them easy to spot, such as the weir, but others need a close look.

The weir was built to divert water into the water races for the purpose of sluring minerals and powering pelton wheels at Halls Falls sawmill.

Ken's response to this is to observe that "when geologists get drunk they slur their minerals and when engineers get angry they start pelting wheels"!

ESHG Photograph Request

If you were a member of the recent INHIGEO excursion led by David Branagan, and you have some good photos of the event, would you please consider forwarding them to the editor of the ESHG newsletter, Peter Muhling, at: peter.muhling@westnet.com.au

OBITUARY

It is with much regret that we note the death in Adelaide of long-time member and supporter **Norton Jackson**, AM (b. April 11, 1919 – d. May 2, 2012). Thanks to Norton's widow, Pat Jackson, for permission to take a selection of the following tributes from an obituary written by Trevor Ireland and published in the *Adelaide Advertiser*.

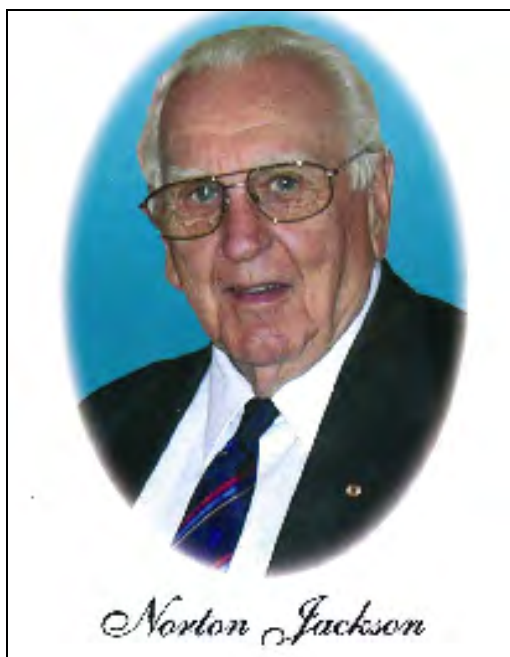
As will be noted, Norton had a long and distinguished career and contributed much to mining during his lifetime. He was a strategic thinker committed to applied research and development, but he also understood the value of personal relationships in business, and his private life, traits that served him well in all fields of life.

The son of Doris and John, a Harbours Board clerk, he grew up in modest circumstances in one of Adelaide's eastern outer suburbs. He went on to take out Mining and Applied Science Diplomas at the SA School of Mines, a B.Eng (Metallurgy) at the University of Adelaide, and M.Eng at the University of Melbourne. He began his working life manufacturing munitions in an Adelaide foundry. This was followed by three years military service with the Royal Australian Engineers in Australia and PNG. In 1946, along with his first wife, Jeanetta May Coppock, he moved to Fiji where he worked at the Vatoukoula gold mine as a research metallurgist and where he improved the recovery of gold from complex ores.

In 1949, aged 30 years, he was made chief metallurgist in the South Australian Government and among other projects he designed and managed the construction of ore processing plants at the Radium Hill

mine and at Port Pirie. This provided Norton with access to high-level political and industrial figures.

A lateral thinker, he conceived and founded AMIRA, an industry-funded collaborative research entity that still functions, and also AMDEL, which became Australia's largest analytical testing business. In 1958 he was recruited by Cyanamid, an international company with over 45,000 employees, where he quickly rose through the ranks to become one of the 10-man executives. He was particularly instrumental in engaging Cyanamid with the new Asian economies. In 1978 he returned to SA to run AMDEL, and in the five years leading up to his retirement he expanded its business four-fold.



Retirement in 1983 provided him with an opportunity to devote himself to a 25-year career in public life, serving in various capacities on State and Commonwealth Government bodies. He also served on the boards of a number of private companies, most of them linked to commercialising new technologies or applying new ideas in mineral exploration. He served on the councils of the University of South Australia and the Australian Mineral Foundation and actively participated in activities that ranged from promotion of international

outreach to mentoring and fundraising both locally and overseas.

Norton also founded the 'Successful Ageing' lecture programme and in retirement increased his philanthropic commitments. Along with his second wife, Pat, he was involved in other social and cultural activities, including a shared interest in the Waterhouse Club of the SA Museum and The Friends of the State Opera (SA).

Norton also gained many honours. In 1981 he was awarded Fellowship of the Academy of technological Sciences and Engineering, and in 1987 was made a member of the Order of Australia for his services to the mining industry. In his final decade Norton attracted further recognition, including in 2006 being awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University of South Australia, and in 2010, the R.K. Murphy Medal of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute. During that latter year he established the Norton Jackson Material Science and Engineering Medals, to be awarded in recognition of successful applied research undertaken in metallurgical sciences and related disciplines at the Ian Wark Centre of the University of South Australia.

After the death of his wife Jean in 1999, Norton's partnership with long-time family friend Pat, blossomed and culminated in their marriage in 2003.

Norton indeed lived a very fruitful life and his contribution to society including mining is reflected in the many honours he gained. Norton is survived by Pat, children Bruce and Kay, three grandchildren, and four great children. From Norton's many friends in the AMHA we extend our deepest thoughts and condolences Pat and the family.

Membership Renewals

Just to remind you that membership forms were recently circulated. An early response would be appreciated.

MJD/March'13