The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Newsletter
Summer 2024

Lead Mine in our Back Yard!

If you live in the tri-state area of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois, it is likely that you know what the Lorenzo Bevans Lead Mine is - or so we thought. It turns out that might not be true. Since joining the museum team in April, I have talked with people from local communities about our museum, and I have heard, on multiple occasions, "I didn't know you had an actual mine that people could walk through!" Our 1845 lead mine is such a unique feature that represents our area's identity and that is why it has been surprising to hear that so many people are unaware of it. When I mentioned this to our museum board and friends of the museum board, they shared a few similar stories of their own. They told me that they have talked with people who lived here their whole lives but did not know that we had a mine. It is now one of our top priorities to make sure that we find ways to inform locals and visitors alike about this spectacular tool for the sharing of our history. Therefore, we want to use Mine Day on August 10 to explore new ways to highlight our 1845 lead mine. This day historically has been to celebrate this unique resource that helps us tell our shared history. We want to take that tradition and build on it in new ways to broaden our audience.

One new way to reinvigerate interest will be the implementation of a free scavenger hunt in the mine. Since guided tours of the mine are available from May to October, we thought it would be fun to let our visitors experience the mine differently just for this one day. The scavenger hunt will allow everyone to explore our historic space and learn at their own pace. Many of the historic tools and natural formations normally talked about on our guided tour will be included, but a changed format will allow our visitors a more individualistic learning opportunity. Most importantly, we hope it allows people to have fun with history. As an added bonus, when you finish the scavenger hunt you will receive a post card with the scavenger hunt list and photos of our mine that you can share with your friends. That way, you will be helping us share the news that we have such a unique experience right here in our back yard.

Speaking of our backyard; We here at the museum have an amazing space for community gathering and we want to use it to attract people who might not normally come to the museum. Last year we hosted a bluegrass festival and we are excited to announce that we will

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Mine Day Bluegrass Lineup

Take the Pearl

Local kid and river dweller, Jayne (harmonica), and Wisconsin rock and roll farm girl, Emily (stand-up bass) met at the 2024 Solar Eclipse event at the East Dubuque home of Minnesota girl, Pearl (guitar). Although they recently started formally playing together, they have been jamming out together for decades. They all recently moved back to the driftless area after a long stint of making beautiful music of originals and classic bluegrass on the road. We are excited about this ensemble!

Holy Crowe Music

This is their second year co-hosting the event for Mine Days. They originally met on the East side of Wisconsin at bluegrass jams and have been playing a variety of bluegrass music since 2019. Half the band lives in the driftless region and the other half are East-siders of Wisconsin. They continue to play a variety of mountain gospel, traditional bluegrass, folk & classic country. Their toe tapping favorites and humorous entertainment will make your feet dance and your spirit rise.

Strings to Roam

This group simply loves playing bluegrass, for their entertainment and for yours! Since late 2019, Strings to Roam has grown into a solid, energetic, upcoming band playing standards and plenty of originals in a bluegrass style all their own. Their influences include bluegrass, folk, old time, blues, Irish, classical, and gospel music. There's a little for everyone and with good humor, they play to honor the music and share great fun! This is sure to be a great way to close the day.

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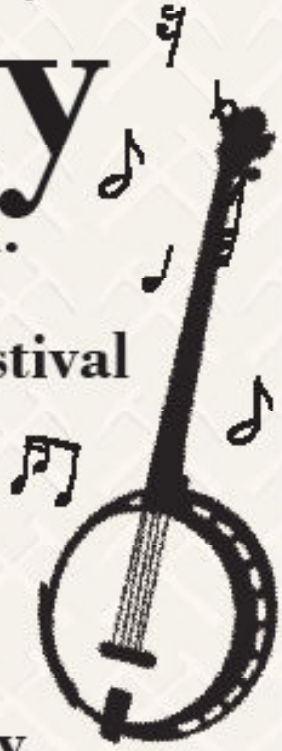
Mine Day

Aug. 10 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Backyard Bluegrass Music Festival

Take the Pearl | Holy Crowe | Strings to Roam

NEW Mine Scavenger Hunt

Explore the Mine in a Whole New Way! | 10 - 4 p.m. | FREE!

Games & Activities All Day

Free Admission and Mine Scavenger Hunt| Train Ride Deal

Pick & Gad Raffle Drawing at 3 p.m. | $20 Raffle Ticket Could Win $500

www.mining.jamison.museum

405 East Main Street | Platteville, WI 53818

Research in Action

Each summer the museum is lucky to work with college students who are interested in internship projects. This summer we were excited to work with Ashten Wilson, who is also one of our tour guides. At the end of her Spring spemester she was interested in collections work. Moreover, she wanted an opportunity to gain experience working with artifacts and learning how to interpret them to tell the stories that they hold.

The purpose of her summer internship project is to educate our visitors, staff, supporters, and friends about the opening of the 1845 Lorenzo Bevans mine using collections and archives pieces. Her detailed report chronicles the process of re-discovering, re-opening, and is using the mine to educate visitors about one of the richest lead mines in the Driftless region of Platteville, Wisconsin.

The report covers the years 1964 through 1976 for their significance pertaining to the rediscovery of the Bevans Lead Mine. The photographs used, as well as artifacts, were sourced with the assistance of Christina Grev, Collections Manager, and Cody Grabhorn, Museum Director. She used artifacts to highlight the breadth of our collections and to add more detail to the story of the rediscovery and reopening of the mine. Her project will help us to tell the story of the mine in a new light and we are proud of the museum professional she is becoming!

Artifacts tell a story

We get excited when someone wants to donate an object that has provenance in the form of a story and can help us tell our mining history. That is the case with these rubber overalls and coat. In July, Bill Broughton made a donation of artifacts, which included a set of rubber overalls and a coat worn by zinc miners at the Blackstone Mine. Bill's father, W.A. Broughton, taught geology and mineralogy at the Platteville School of Mines and moonlighted as a geologist for the Blackstone Mine. Bill remembers visiting the mine with his father before the pumps were shut off. During this visit, they donned the waterproof gear as they descended the mine. Once they got back above ground, they were told that they could keep the garb. Bill said of the experience, "He made a young boy feel very happy. I also have a couple rather hefty pieces of Galena that also came from the mine." Our museum board has accepted these artifacts to showcase the history of mining in the upper Mississippi Valley Zinc-Lead District. We are thankful that Bill shared the story of him and his father with us, and we hope you enjoy it too!

Mine Day

Continued from page 1

continue that event! You might be asking, what does a bluegrass festival have to do with our 1845 mine and making sure that people know it is open to the public? The bluegrass festival is about pulling more people in to our site so that they can see the value of our museum first hand. Increasing our audience will help us to show people who might not otherwise come to the museum how unique it really is and in the meantime entertain them with some of the best music around.

We hope that introducing a revitalized approach and broadened audience for mine day will help us to tell the stories that the mine holds. After all, stories are what makes museums so special and the story of Lorenzo Bevans is one that highlights the history of our city, our region, and even the nation. Just with our mine we can talk about the history of industry, westward expansion, demographics, culture, and the national spirit of the early 19th century. If you have not experienced our mine, I encourage you to to visit us during Mine Day. It will be a great visit for any age group! We believe that if you experience the mine and learn the story, you will be out telling your friends and family about the unique mine right here in Southwest Wisconsin. So, we hope to see you on August 10 to take in the mine, great music, and a meaningful community gathering.

Rising Star Award

This summer Christina Grev, Collections and Education specialist, was nominated for and received the Rising Star Award. Christina brings specific museum knowledge and experience to her role as our collections and education specialist. What makes her so special though is that she goes out of her way to share that knowledge and experience with the rest of the team. This ensures that our whole team is familiarized with the best practices, which makes her invaluable to the museums. Furthermore, She has brought innovation to the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museum's with her concepts of take home kits, new pioneer day camp programming, and collections storage practices to name a few of her impactful projects. Additionally, Christina has shown her flexibility with her two roles of collections manager and education manager in the last year. She has found ways to make these two positions seamlessly work as one by overlaying projects that address our collections needs as well as education needs. Her work to date shows a promise for the future here at the museum and we would like to recognize her for it.

Another Succesfull Heritage Day

Over 600 attend Heritage Day!

We had yet another succesful Heritage Day with over 600 people partaking in fun games and activities. With the addition of more activities in our museum spaces more people expressed an interest in the museum exhibits and were able to try their hand at a few historic practices. Outside activities proved to be as popular as they always have been. One of these activities was Cricket demonstrations and numerous cricket games were played. Of course, it wouldn't be a Mining and Rollo Jamison Museum event without our famous boxing squirrel roaming the grounds and showing children and adults alike a good time! We can't wait to start planning for next year and implementing even more games to make this a day that everyone can enjoy and learn a little bit more about our history!

Young Pioneers

The Young Pioneers program is alive and well after taking a few years of downtime. We are excited to announce that all fifteen available slots were filled by children ages 7 to 10! Each day for four days these young pioneers learned about our history through hands on activities.

We already can't wait for our next group of young pioneers next summer! If you know of any children who would be interested in this week long day camp, we would love to have them come next summer!

Support Your Museum

Friends of the Museum Pick & Gad Raffle Tickets On Sale Now Until Mine Day: $20 Can Win $500!

Support the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums and win valuable cash prizes! Each $20 raffle ticket earns a chance to win a $500 Grand Prize, $250 2nd Prize, $100 3rd Prize, and 10 $40 prizes. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum (open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday), from directors of the Friends of The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums members, or from Platteville Museum Board members.

Winners of the Pick & Gad Raffle will be drawn at 3 p.m. on Mine Day, Aug. 10. All proceeds benefit the 2024 Annual Fund and directly support Museum operations and Friends initiatives that make the Museum more accessible to all, especially schoolchildren across the Tristate area.

Congrats & best wishes to Marie Bakken

Marie, who has served as our Visitor Services Specialist for the last year and a half, is enrolled in the Master's program for Museum Studies at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. We are thankful for the great work she has done to move our museum into the future and hope for the best with her future endeavours in the museum field.

Museum Leadership

City of Platteville Museum Board
Brad Brogley, President
Garrett Jones, Secretary
Lawrence Bowden
Kathy Connett
Tom Nall
Deb Jenny

Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Board
Deb Jenny, President
Hap Daus, Vice President
Duane DeYoung, Treasurer
Dee Woolf, Secretary
Mark Haas
Eileen Nickels
Matthew Zielinski

Museum Staff
Cody Grabhorn, Museum Director
Kendall Miller, Visitor Services Specialist
Heidi Dyas-McBeth, Collections Assistant
Christina Grev, Collections Management and Education Specialist
Emma Larson, Facilities Maintenance Technician
Sharon Trentz, Museum Custodial Technician
Angie Wright, Administration Specialist
Tour Guides: Bruce Flesch, Ashten Wilson, Lily Simon, and Taylor Beck

Behind the Scenes

Letter From the Friends of the Museum President - Deb Jenny

The Friends of the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums is a 501(c)(3) membership driven organization whose mission is to support the museum not only by raising funds for improvements to the facilities but also for educational programs for children and adults and for events like Mine Day. I hope you can join us on Mine Day where the Friends will be there not only selling Pick and Gad raffle tickets but also drawing the lucky winners where $20 makes you eligible to win $500! We'll also be selling concessions and joining you in enjoying the activities that Cody and the staff have worked hard to provide that day.

Mine Day will start the fall Pasty Sale with pick up to be October 23rd. More information will be coming soon but feel free to contact a Friends board member and let them know what you would like to order of these easy to make comfort foods. You'll be able to order on line after Mine Day. The historic re-enactment is gearing up to happen in September with some new additions you won't want to miss and holiday planning is in the works. Our biggest fund raiser is the Miners Ball which will be held on February 15, 2025 and we hope to see you there. This event includes the Ken Kilian Classic Band, along with a silent and live auction plus lots of food and fun. When you need a break from dancing sit back and relax and be entertained by the students and others who are out there dancing the night away!

The Friends involvement is year round and I invite you to join us by becoming a member, volunteering at the museum, or contact me about joining the board. As always, your donation whether large or small is greatly appreciated. Become a part of keeping history alive for the generations to come.

Yes, I Wish to Support the 2023 Annual Fund!

The Annual Fund directly supports Museum operations, key public programs and initiatives.

- The Friends are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, EIN 39-1363989.
- Gifts are tax deductible to the limits of the law.
- You can give conveniently online: **www.mining.jamison.museum/donate**
- Please consider the Museums in your estate plans.

Please return this form and make checks payable to:

The Friends of the Mining
& Rollo Jamison Museums
P.O. Box 780
Platteville, WI 53818

Contact Erik Flesch at (608) 348-3301 or museumdirector@platteville.org with questions.

Name(s) for Acknowledgment: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP:_____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Gift Information ☐ Anonymous, please. ☐ I am interested to discuss a bequest.

☐ I/We enclose a $_____ gift in support of the Annual Fund.

☐ I/We enclose a restricted gift of $_____ for the following:

_____

☐ I/We Wish to be Sustainers and to a Make a Recurring Gift of $ _____

Account Type: Frequency: ☐ Monthly (~15th of month)

☐ Checking ☐ Savings ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

This sustaining gift will be ongoing until I contact the museum to change it or cancel.

Bank Name _____

Account # _____ Routing # _____

Signature: _____

Charge the One-Time Donation to: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CSC #: _____

Signature: _____

Rediscover the Joy of Learning At Our Historic Museum Campus

All ages are invited to rediscover the natural history, cultural history, and industry of the Driftless Area in the city that is home to the world's largest letter "M."

Join us for seasonal festivals, guided tours, fascinating galleries of changing exhibits, and underground programs. Of course, don't miss the Boxing Squirrels on display!

www.mining.jamison.museum

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Contact Us!

The Mining &
Rollo Jamison Museums
405 East Main Street
P.O. Box 780
Platteville, WI 53818

(608) 348-3301

museums@platteville.org

Visit us on the web at
www.mining.jamison.museum

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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