The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Newsletter

Fall 2018

Seated (left to right): Larry Hofer, Leonard Bennett, Dick Redfearn, Mike Woulf, Whitey Teasdale, Dave Harwick, Ron Nichols, Loren Farrey, Bill Weber. Second row: John Griebe, Tom Simmons, Rod Zuehlke, Clinton White, June Ubersox, Art Evans, Jerry Alendorf, Dennis Gensler, Bob Buman (Ulysses S. Grant re-enactor). Back row: Steve Copeland, Terry Leifker. Not Pictured: Robert Bennett, Vernon Brink, Jerry Houy, Don MacNaughton, Foster Musselman, Terry Renee.

Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Will Host 2019 Miners Reunion

We are pleased to announce that the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums will be the site for the fifth-annual Miners Reunion picnic on **Saturday, August 3, 2019**. The previous four events were held in Galena.

All current and former miners and their families are invited to attend. Besides the picnic, participants are invited to tour the Museums' exhibits, tour the mine if they are able (requires the ability to descend and climb 90 stairs), ride the mine train, and chat about "the old days."

Museum Director Erik Flesch said it will be an honor to have the former miners visit the historic setting.

Mining Memories Abound at Reunion

By Dave Ralph, Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Board Secretary

About two dozen retired miners swapped memories of the zinc mining era at their fourth annual Miners Reunion picnic August 4 in Galena.

D.E. MacNaughton of Shullsburg represents the third generation in his family to work at mines, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. MacNaughton said he participates in the the annual picnic because he enjoys visiting with friends he doesn't see often and sharing stories with miners.

Besides accompanying his father and grandfather on mining projects, MacNaughton worked for a short time at the Eagle-Picher mine near New Diggings. He became a night

continued on page 11

Collections Care

Our Map Preservation Project is one component of a comprehensive collections care project underway. Mining maps from the 1840s through the 1960s that had been rolled and stored in stacks are now being hydrated, flattened, catalogued, and safely stored in steel drawers.

IMLS Grant Enables Us To Preserve Collections

By Tracey Roberts,
IMLS-Grant-Supported Collections Manager

What do you love best about the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums? The mine tour? The train? The exhibit halls? The educational programs and events? The historic buildings? The dedicated people who work and volunteer here? Wow, there is a lot to love, but at the heart of all we do is a profound collection of artifacts that relate to Grant County and the lead and zinc mining district in Southwest Wisconsin. Caring for and housing a collection of over 30,000 artifacts is a huge challenge, but we have made major strides these past two years.

It began when the Museums won a couple of small grants to purchase a new computer and the "PastPerfect" software program. This software is the go-to database for museums across the country. PastPerfect both tracks donations so generously offered by our members and can record detailed information about each artifact in the Collections. It allows us to attach a photograph to the artifact's description, with the name of the donor, the artifact's dimensions, and where it is housed in the many collections' storage rooms in the Museums. We slowly began cataloguing the Collection in late Spring 2016. We had wonderful students from the University helping us. We especially thank Tori Kosobucki, Megan Minter, and Kalina Hildebrandt who helped get the project off the ground.

In Spring of 2017, we wrote a grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Our proposal asked for money to purchase archivally safe materials for our rare maps, books, and photographs. We also needed acid-free boxes for our extensive clothing and fabrics collection which includes lovely quilts dating from 1850 to 1980, military uniforms, and silk gowns. The grant also requested funding for a part-

continued on page 3

Collections In The News

Check out the Sept. 1 edition of the Telegraph Herald for **"Platteville museums unfurl region's mining history."**

time Collections Manager and summer interns.

In August 2017, we got word that we were awarded almost $25,000 to pursue our goal of cataloguing and preserving the collections. There were lots of high-fives and smiles that day, and then the planning began. We put out a call for applicants for the Collections Manager position and filled it with Tracey Roberts, a retired University history lecturer and past curator at the Galena and U.S. Grant Museum. Tracey wrote a short how-to manual of how to catalogue artifacts so that all volunteers and staff would do the work in the same way. She trained all the collections interns and volunteers and supervised the year-long project. We also decided that cataloguing wasn't enough. The collection needed sorting, cleaning, and rehousing into acid-free materials to preserve the artifacts for another couple of hundred years.

In summer of 2018, we began work on the mining map collection. This collection is extraordinary and preserving them is a top priority. According to museum standards, we are hydrating and flattening the hundreds of rolled up maps in our collection. Then we catalogue and store them in steel map drawers for safe-keeping and easy retrieval for our staff and researchers to use.

Our grant-funded summer interns included Andrew Ziehr, Garrison Ledbury, and Abby Alderson. Andrew came on board in Collections in fall of 2017 as a history student doing a field course in museum studies. He stayed on through the winter as a work-study student. He has been invaluable to our progress. Andrew graduated with his history degree in 2018 and plans to go to graduate school at UW-Eau Claire to pursue a Public History master's degree. Garrison, a history major, began as a volunteer last summer and continued through early spring 2018. His fraternity brothers from Sigma Pi came to the museum for a big clean-up work day when they not only helped us clean the attic, but also moved all the heavy steel map drawers to the second floor of the Rock School. That took some muscle! Intern Abby Alderson, another UW-Platteville student, is pursuing a double-major in history and political science and then hopes to go to law school.

The IMLS Grant allowed the museums to make great strides in preserving and cataloguing our unique collections. We are grateful we were awarded the grant and we put it to great use. Summer is now over, and students are returning to the classroom.

Volunteer Becca Ott, a University of Wisconsin-Platteville student, measures the dimensions of an 1870's prairie dress.

We very much want to continue the important work we started. In the Museums' strategic plan, cataloguing project is a top priority and we plan to make the Collections Manager a permanent position by 2020. This serves all the citizens of Platteville and beyond as the collections will become more accessible for use and research. We are fulfilling the mandate given to us in the 1960s when the Mining Museum opened, and that is "to preserve, interpret, and display the artifacts which help define our area."

Mark Your Calendars

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day

September 22, 2018

Museum Day is an annual celebration of curiosity hosted by Smithsonian magazine. A Museum Day ticket provides **free admission for two people**. Find your tickets at https://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday

Sweet Treats

Saturday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bring your little ghouls and goblins for free mine train rides (weather permitting) and special activities. Free.

Haunted Mine Tours

Saturday, Oct. 27, 6-10 p.m.

Descend deep into the 1845 Bevans Lead Mine for a lantern–lit tour and details on local hauntings.

Veterans Day Weekend

Friends Annual Meeting & Special Reception

Saturday, November 10, 4 p.m.

Area experts will bring new WWI exhibits dramatically to life. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages and live music. Members only! **Free. Not a member? Join today!**

Veterans Day Special Tours

Sunday, November 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free to active duty military, their families, and all veterans. Includes guided tours of the Bevans Lead Mine, the WWI exhibit, and more. Details TBA.

Holiday Mine Sing: Cornish Men's Chorus Performs Underground

Saturday, December 15, 2018

The Chough Singers of Mineral Point will perform a selection of lively Cornish standards underground in the 1845 Bevans Lead Mine.

This will be an optional addition to a traditional Christmas choral presentation in the Museums. $10 per person.

Winter Lyceum

Dates To Be Announced

Continuing the popular Winter Lyceum tradition, the Museums will offer a series of fascinating talks by knowledgeable speakers.

Miners Ball

Saturday, January 19, 2019, 5-10 p.m. at Velzy Commons at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Music by Ken Kilian. Formal dinner, cash bar, a silent auction, and mining history displays featuring connections between the Museums and the University. $100 per person.

Program Sponsorship

In the Museums' continued efforts to raise money in support of our operations and programming, we have developed event sponsorship opportunities. These special opportunities give you the opportunity to associate your business or brand with the Museums' high-quality, educational programming.

Sweet Treats and Haunted Mine Tours $100
- 4 Available
- Name or logo on event poster (for sponsorships secured before October 1st)
- Recognition on Facebook and Twitter
- Recognition in our Museums' Newsletter

Veterans Day Weekend Programming $100
- 10 Available
- Name or logo on event poster (for sponsorships secured before November 1st)
- Recognition on Facebook and Twitter
- Recognition in our Museums' Newsletter

Cornish Men's Chorus Mine Sing at the Holidays $100
- 4 Available
- Name or logo on event poster (for sponsorships secured before December 1st)
- Recognition on Facebook and Twitter
- Recognition in our Museums' Newsletter

Winter Lyceum Lecture Series $250
- 4 available
- Name or logo on event poster (for sponsorships secured before January 15th)
- Recognition on Facebook and Twitter
- Recognition in our Museums' Newsletter
- Recognition at the event

Miners Ball
- Three sponsorship levels with increasing benefits
- Platinum Ore: **$2,500**
- Gold Ore: **$1,500**
- Silver Ore: **$500**

Please contact Erik Flesch, Museum Director, at (608) 348-3301 or museumdirector@platteville.org to support a project you care about, or to request additional information.

Sponsorship Form

Sponsor Information

Please list your name as you would like it to appear in event promotional materials. Email a high-resolution image of your logo to museumdirector@platteville.org with "Sponsor Logo" in the subject line.

Sponsor Name (Company/Business/Individual): _____

Phone:_____

Address:_____

Contact Person: _____ Email: _____

*An acknowledgement suitable for your tax records will be sent to the address as shown above.

Sponsorship Level

Event: _____

Donation amount: _____

Special Instructions: _____

The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
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Please return form with your donation to:
Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
P.O. Box 780
Platteville, WI 53818

Volunteers

David Withers contributed more than 100 volunteer hours in 2018.

Page Leahy helped organize the historic postcard collection.

Our Volunteers Propel The Museums Forward

By Tracey Roberts,
IMLS Grant-Funded Collections Manager

The Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums could not accomplish all the good work that happens here without our volunteers. We are so grateful for the many dedicated folks who do all sorts of jobs. Planting flowers to beautify our grounds, helping to get out our mailings (including this newsletter), moving heavy objects for display, and working with our collections are just a few of the tasks that volunteers take on.

As of the end of July 2018, volunteers gave over 500 hours of their time and expertise this year. To host our fabulous annual community Heritage Day events, we count on volunteers. Volunteers help organize our collections, clean and catalogue the artifacts, and assist in putting up exhibits. They also serve on our city Museum Board and the Friends of the Mining and Rollo Jamison Board.

By volunteering, you will learn new skills, offer your expertise, and spend time with others who love history and our historical collections. We need help on an occasional basis for a program or a task, and we need weekly volunteers who learn more complex jobs and become specialists in an area of the Museums' work. Please contact us to find out what volunteer opportunities are currently available or stop by the Museums to fill out a Volunteer Interest Form, and we'll get back to you.

Email Museums Director Erik Flesch at museumdirector@platteville.org or call (608) 348-3301. Please join us! You will learn a lot, have fun, and make a difference.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Sign up now to be part of the new Museum Gardening Crew in 2019 in partnership with the Grant County Master Gardeners Association!

Supporters

Thank you, 2018 Donors, Members and Sponsors

This list reflects all dues and donations received between 1/1/2018 and 8/31/2018.

Hanmer Robbins' Legacy ($1,000 - $2,999)

Loren and Arlene Farrey - Alliant Energy Foundation Match

Rollo's Friends ($500-999)

Melody Lodge #2 F. & A. M.
William Schilling

Bevans' Band ($250-499)

Tracey Roberts and Jeff Wright
L&M Corrugated Container Corporation
Robert Brodbeck
Heiser Hardware

Rountree's Circle ($150 – 249)

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The Friendly Place
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Roger & Marilyn Gottschalk
Bill & Kay Haling
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Barry Zalben

Program Sponsorships

Historic Re-enactment
Steve Kleefisch
Friends of the Museums Annual Meeting
Steve Kleefisch
Lyceum
Steve Kleefisch

Please consider making a donation to support our operations and programming.

- Gifts are tax deductible to the limits of the law.
- Give online: mining.jamison.museum/donate
- Please consider the Museums in your estate plans.

Please return form and make checks payable to:

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

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

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Pledge Information

I/We pledge a gift of $_____ Amount Enclosed: $_____

☐ Gift will be matched by: _____

I/We prefer to make payments over a period of ☐ one year ☐ two years ☐ three years

Charge the Donation to:

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgments: _____

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☐ I prefer this gift to be anonymous.

Education

Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museum Secretary Dave Ralph meets students at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville New Student Welcome Scavenger Hunt in City Park on Sept. 1.

Building Bridges with UW-P Students

New Student Scavenger Hunt & Admission Coupons
Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museum Secretary Dave Ralph represented the Museums at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville New Student Welcome Scavenger Hunt in City Park on Sept. 1. Each of 1,200 new students received a coupon for $1 admission to the Museums during their first year at UW-P. Welcome new students!

Senior Sustainability Project Partnership
Senior students in the Sustainability and Renewable Energy Systems will participate in a project on the Museums' campus. Once students have met with the Museum Director within the first week of school, they will design their project and showcase the results on Dec. 5th and Dec. 19th.

Students to Volunteer on eMbrace Citizenship Day
City Council member Don Francis, who also serves as UW-P Summer Camps Services Coordinator, will instruct an "Introduction to College Life" class with first-year students. On Saturday, Sept. 29th, he will generously have his class volunteer at the Museums as part of UW-P's "eMbrace Citizenship Day."

Work-Study Opportunities
The Museums are welcoming work-study applications for the following positions to assist with ongoing projects: Collections Assistant, Research Assistant, and Planning Assistant. Contact the UW-P Financial Aid Office or Museum Director Erik Flesch for application information.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Young Pioneers through Immersion

Education Coordinator Mary Huck and now-retired longtime curator Stephanie Saager-Bourret have taught Young Pioneers camp for more than 26 years, a program they designed to offer youth the experience of life in this nook of the Driftless Area from the paleolithic to the pioneer days. This July, 13 students signed up for this four-day immersive program.

Students learned about Native Americans of the region, handled furs and skins of animals that were trapped and hunted, explored food preservation, and imagined when mammoths roamed. Students hand made leather drawstring bags with bead decorations and played double ball — a Native American team sport.

Young Pioneers experimented with mining and lead-pouring, and explored the culinary side of frontier life with hands-on cooking and cheesemaking activities. Camp always includes a ride on the 1931 mine train on the beautiful Museums' campus.

Young Pioneers experienced the joy of discovering the lead mineral galena glimmering in the candlelight in the underground lead mine. They did a bit of surface mining for mineral with picks and shovels. Our educators created a campfire to melt down lead, and each student helped to cast their own musket and Minié balls.

Behind the Scenes

Letter From the Museum Director

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums and its legacy of education and community outreach.

In my first two months in the role of Museum Director, it has been an honor to meet individually with numerous stakeholders who have contributed deeply to the Museums over the decades as visitors, volunteers, employees, board members, and supporters — and I have been listening intently. I look forward to meeting many more of you.

My work at the Museums each day is guided by strategic goals that are years in the making. The Platteville community members I have met are extraordinarily patient, optimistic, supportive, and excited to give of themselves in achieving these goals. Your generous continued support will allow the Museums to:

Strengthen and deepen the Museums engagement in the community, care for our collections, provide a fun and enjoyable Museum experience, ensure long-term sustainability and grow organizational capacity, and increase the Museums' prominence.

The beautiful Museums campus can and should continue to serve as a center for adults and children alike to discover the natural history, cultural history, and science and industry of our corner of the Driftless Region for generations to come.

This weekend the Museums help produce the 21st annual Platteville Historic Re-enactment, with dozens of camp sites and participants bringing the pioneering history of our Upper Mississippi River Valley mining area to life for thousands of schoolchildren and families.

Thank you for continuing to support the history of our region and our work to make that history accessible to the world. The lessons of history enrich our lives.

Best,

Erik Flesch
Museum Director

Our Boards of Directors

City of Platteville Museum Board of Directors

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Dave Ralph, Secretary/Treasurer
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Duane DeYoung
Kathy Kopp
Dee Woolf

What's New in Staffing

Museum Director Erik Flesch began his role on July 2. Mary Huck continues to serve as Museum Educator in her 32nd year at the Museums. Tracey Roberts has served as IMLS Grant-Funded Collections Manager since fall 2017.

Jenny Smith, weekend supervisor, is in her ninth consecutive year. Tour guide Bruce Flesch is in his seventh year.

This summer, former Young Pioneer and UW-P graduate Emma Cleveland served as a tour guide before heading off to graduate school at the UW-Madison this fall.

Tevor Bohn came back to the Museums for his third summer — his second as a tour guide — and returns to Holy Ghost - Immaculate Conception School this fall as a teacher. Philip Hansen served his first summer as tour guide and returns to Dubuque Senior High School as a teacher this fall. Besides guiding tours, Trevor and Philip performed invaluable extra service this summer doing railroad track maintenance.

We thank Abby Alderson, Garrison Ledbury and Andew Ziehr for serving as collections interns under the IMLS grant.

Join us in welcomng new tour guide Shanshan Thompson and new Museum Facilities Technician Trent Meyer, both of whom started in August.

Meeting the Miners

Brothers Leonard Bennett and Robert Bennett are intimately familiar with the mining legacy of this nook of the Driftless Region.

Bennett Brothers Cherish Family Mining Memories

By Dave Ralph,
Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Board Secretary

Leonard Bennett and Robert Bennett, both of Platteville, grew up in Leadmine, just east of Benton in Lafayette County when zinc mines were economic focal points in the Driftless Region.

Their father, Charles "Chub" Bennett, began work for a mine at age 12 and became well known in the mining industry. Leonard was born in 1925 and began his mining career at age 19 in a laboratory grinding rock samples at the Champion Mine near New Diggings.

The rock samples came from "headings," test holes drilled down from the ground's surface to find "drifts" or veins of mineral deposits. A chemical test on the powder-like rock samples determined the percentage of ore content.

Robert Bennett operated a drag line for the Champion Mine on the night shift while he studied at the Wisconsin State Teachers College in Platteville. The drag line raked in tailings, small pieces of broken rock, so more zinc could be extracted from the tailings.

Leonard Bennett served in the Navy during World War II and then joined his father as an industrial contractor building derricks, the housing above a shaft for equipment to lower miners and equipment down or pulling up rock and ore. They also blasted to sink shafts and constructed elevators and troughs to move "deads," the tiny pieces of gravel that no longer held ore.

An equipment failure on one project could have severely injured or killed Leonard and "Chub."As the two men sank a mine shaft they placed dynamite and lit the fuse at the bottom of the hole. Each man slipped a leg into the "can," the large bucket that went up and down the shaft, and signaled hoist operator Benny Fields to raise the can.

But the can erratically jerked up and down, sometimes rising above the rim of the shaft, as the long fuse burned toward the dynamite below. The explosion would trigger a shock wave with a cloud of dust and flying rocks.

Leonard recalled, "As we cleared the rim again Dad yelled at me, 'Get out of here! He's going to kill the both of us!'" At the rim, the can would pass a rope-like carpet made to prevent large rocks from a blast from flying out of the shaft. Leonard timed his leap as the can got above the rope mat and he clung to the mat. Chub made a similar leap the next time the can passed above the shaft rim.

Moments later the blast filled the bottom of the shaft with tons of rock.

"Dad was pretty disgusted, and he went to the hoist and jumped all over Benny," Leonard said. "Benny didn't say much. He pointed at the brake pedal and showed Dad it was broke. So, Dad knew Benny had no control over the can. Neither one of them had to say much then and Dad gradually cooled off because Dad understood what happened."

Robert became an educator and a pastor. His first teaching job was at the Leadmine school. He later became principal of Hanmer Robbins Elementary School which was the original Platteville High School built in 1905 and is the home of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums.

A Look Back at the Spring Miners Forum

A miners forum was held at the Museums on Sunday, May 6, and it was video recorded for future uses and presentations. The forum featured the comments of mining experts (from left to right) Tom Golden and Rod Zuehlke of Galena, and historian Loren Farrey of Mineral Point, and was moderated by Dave Ralph. The Museum seeks more retired miners to preserve their recollections from the mining era. If you are a retired miner who wishes to participate or know of a retired miner the Museums could contact regarding this project, please contact Dave at 608.381.2863 or plattetheref@aol.com.

Miners Forever organizer Bob Buman, Museum Director Erik Flesch, Galena Mayor Terrence Renner, and Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museum Secretary/Treasurer Dave Ralph at the Miners Reunion on Aug. 4.

continued from page 1

watchman to monitor the property and equipment, and he filled in as a substitute employee when necessary which gave him a variety of experiences.

MacNaughton said that as a night watchman he appreciated the solitude while everything was quiet. Occasionally, he drank a beer at the dog house, the building where miners stored gear and ate meals. In cold weather the watchmen and miners kept warm when possible by staying close to red hot pot belly stoves in the dog houses, he added.

"We all had fun. There was a lot of chatter when the men took breaks or before and after their shifts," he said. "Not everyone got along all the time, but it was like a family and we enjoyed it."

Veterans Day Weekend Honors 100th Anniversary of Armistice

Photo by Hap Daus

Veterans and their families from throughout the Tri-State area are invited to participate!

Saturday, Nov. 10

Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Annual Meeting and Special Reception
Area experts bringing new WWI exhibits dramatically to life.

Sunday, Nov. 11

Veterans Day Special Tours
Free to active duty military, their families and all veterans.

More Details Inside!

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Visit us on the web at
mining.jamison.museum

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