The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
WISCONSIN

Newsletter

Spring 2018

A photo from the Museums' collections shows men sorting zinc ore in a hoist house.

Mining panel to highlight zinc era

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

A panel of men who worked in the Upper Mississippi Valley Zinc-Lead District during the heyday of the zinc era and a prominent historian will describe details about the mines and zinc processing industry at a special forum scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday, May 6th at the Museums.

The panel discussion, titled "Mining Memories As Told by Our Local Miners," is part of the celebration surrounding the seasonal opening of the Bevans Lead Mine at the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums.

Loren Farrey, a native of Leadmine who resides in Mineral Point, has accepted an invitation to be on the panel. He is the author of *A Tour Guide to the Mines of Lafayette County*. Others invited include Tom Golden and Rod Zuelke, both of Galena, Illinois.

"I want to keep the mining knowledge alive," Farrey said. He added that lead mining in the Driftless Area boomed by the mid 1800s, but its economic prominence began to fade after the Civil War in the 1860s and 1870s. "If we didn't have zinc, not many people today would be familiar with the mining history in the Driftless," he explained.

The zinc mining activity reached its peak production in the first half of the 1900s during World War I and following WWI due to technological progress and market demand, according to Farrey.

An example of the zinc boom cited by Farrey included zinc mines within a two to three mile radius of Benton in 1917. The monetary equivalent in 1917 from zinc mining and processing in the Benton vicinity converted to 2018 values would be approximately $75 million today, he said.

The larger zinc mining operations in and near Benton employed up to 300 or 400 men at each mine during the 1900s. The demand for labor caused a shortage of workers in Benton. As a result, companies worked with the federal government to recruit laborers from Europe - nations such as Serbia, Croatia, and Hungary - to travel to the Driftless Area to supply manpower.

Robert Bennett of Platteville, a native of Leadmine and a longtime educator and pastor in Southwest Wisconsin, helped organize the forum ideas. His family was active in the mining industry for generations. He supports efforts in the Driftless Area to preserve the mining heritage so future generations are educated about the region's beginnings.

Mark your calendars:

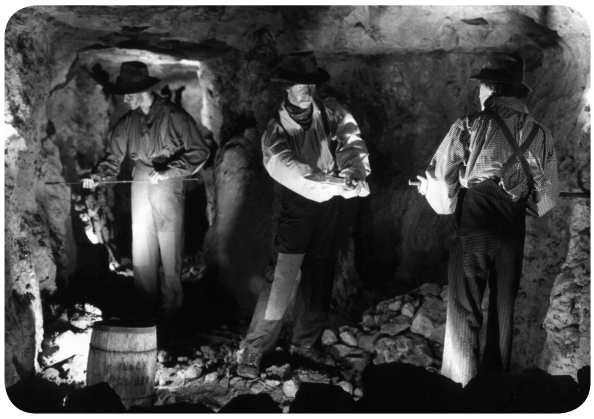
Mining Memories as Told by Our Local Miners

Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 3:00 pm

Upcoming Events

Family Day

Saturday, May 19, 2018
11:00 am - 2:00 pm



Join us for a day of mining-related fun and rock and mineral related activities at this fun family day. Museum Admission Applies, Free for Museum Members

Mark Stead of the Hit and Miss Engines group demonstrates corn shelling at last year's Heritage Day.

Heritage Day returns

July 4th, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Celebrate the July 4th holiday in our backyard with a day of games, demonstrations, special exhibits, music, and food. The Wundo Band will perform from 12:00 – 4:00 pm.

Exhibits, activities and Music are free, discounted mine tours and train rides (free for members)

Make Music Platteville

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Make Music Platteville returns to the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums. Look for free performances all over town during this celebration of music and community. Check out www.makemusicday.org/platteville for current listings.

Young Pioneers Camp

Two Sessions:
July 9 – 12, 2017 OR July 16 – 19, 2017
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Cost: $35/person ($30/members)

Travel into the past and see what life was like in the 1800s. Examine Native American tools, dig for lead, cook over a fire, and play games from the past. Open to students entering 2nd through 5th grade.

Call (608) 348-3301 to register.

Event Sponsorship

In the Museum's 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.

Heritage Day July 4th Community Picnic $125

- 10 sponsorships available
- Name or logo on event poster (for sponsorships secured by June 1st)
- Recognition on Facebook and Twitter
- Recognition in our Museum Newsletter

Platteville Historic Re-enactment $500

- 25 available (one for each camp site)
- Recognition on site map/listing (for sponsorships secured by August 15th)
- Invitation to Camp dinner for participants and sponsors and recognition on program
- Recognition on Facebook and Twitter
- Recognition in our Museum Newsletter

Friends of the Museums Annual Meeting $100

- 4 Available
- Name or logo on event poster (for sponsorships secured before October 1st)
- Recognition on Facebook and Twitter
- Recognition in our Museum 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 Museum Newsletter
- Recognition at the event

Please contact Diana Bolander, Museum Director, at (608) 348-3301 or museumdirector@platteville.org if you have any questions.

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:_____

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Contact Person: _____ Email: _____

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

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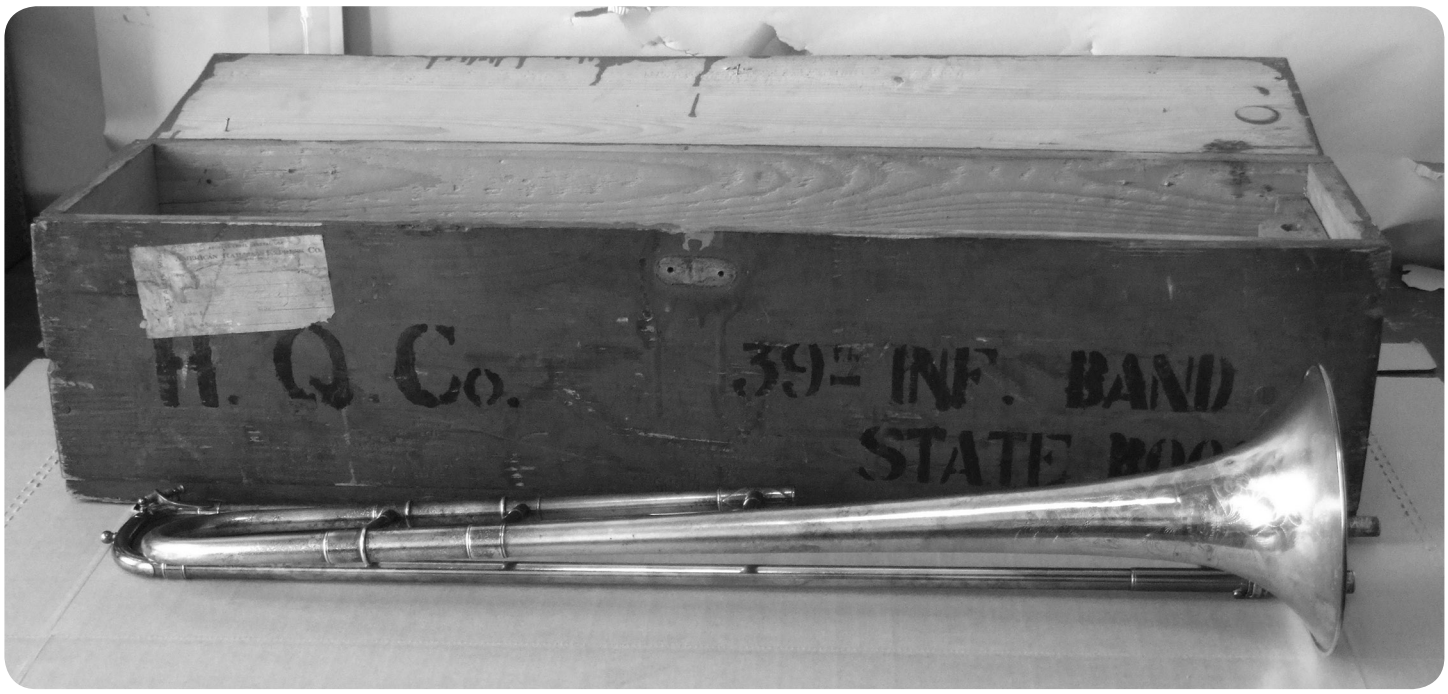
Please return form with your donation to:

Friends of the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums
PO Box 780
Platteville, WI 53818

Thank you very much for your donation and support!

Museum Collections



Vintage, Silver Plated Trombone, circa 1915. Manufactured by the "Conn Instrument Manufacturing Company" Elkhart, Indiana. This was the personal instrument of World War I veteran Robert J. Bentley from Platteville.

Collections Spotlight: WWI Infantry Band Trombone

By Jeff Schave, Friends of the Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums Board Member

By September of 1917 America had already been engaged in the great struggle raging in Europe for six months. It would take another fourteen months, until November 1918, before the world would once again be at peace. However, in the month of September 1917, a young, 21 year old music teacher from Platteville named Robert J. Bentley was drafted and became the newest local to join the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) bound for the fields of France. Robert was born in 1896 in Elk Grove Township, Wisconsin. On September 26th, 1917 he left his home located at 704 West Pine Street to begin his training at Camp Grant, Rockford, Illinois. Now, for the rest of the story, let's examine the artifact we are featuring this quarter: his trombone from the Museums' collection.

Pictured is a vintage, circa 1915 "Conn" silver plated trombone along with its shipping crate and identification tags showing how it was transferred to and from France during World War I. This instrument was Robert's personal property. From research records I was able to find out that after a year of training, Robert and his trombone were sent "Over There" from September 1918 to August 1919. His official classification was Musician 3rd Class. Robert's original assignment was with the 4th Division, 39th Regiment (see picture of crate), yet he was shortly reassigned to the 86th Division's 342nd Regiment.

Here's a little info on the 86th Division: the 86th was popularly known as the "Blackhawk" Division. The Insignia (pictured at left) is a black hawk and the monogram "B.H." superimposed on a red shield. Robert's unit was among the first from the 86th to arrive in France. Upon their arrival, they were quickly sent to the "LeMans" sector for further orders.

In my research I learned that regimental bands

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Volunteers

Collections volunteer David Withers

Collections Assistant David Withers

By Tracey Roberts, IMLS Grant-Funded Collections Manager

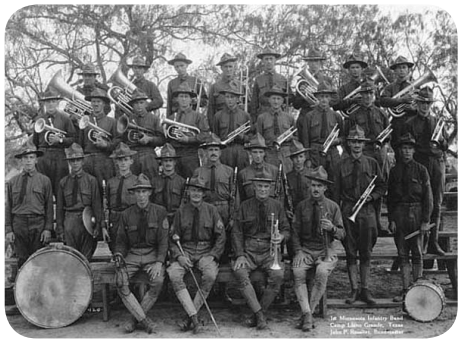
Each month volunteers and interns contribute about 60 hours to the care of our Collections at the Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums. One volunteer, David Withers from Blue River, WI has been volunteering seven hours a week for nearly a year. David has a BA in History from UW-Eau Claire and plans to attend UW-Madison for a Master's degree in Library Science. Prior to joining our volunteer team, David interned at three other history museums.

David enjoys working with the early photographic, recording, and telegraphing machinery in the museum. From the "Magic Lantern" (early image projector), to a Civil War era telegraph, to crystal radio sets from the early 20th century, David has catalogued, cleaned, and stored our extensive collection of these items.

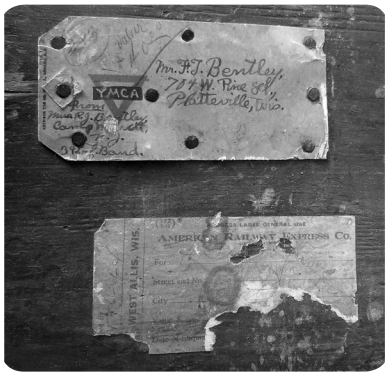
We are very grateful for volunteers like David who is a dedicated and careful assistant. If you would like to offer your time on a regular weekly schedule and learn about artifact handling and collection care, please fill out a Volunteer Interest Form, available at the front desk of the museums.

Collections Spotlight Continued

usually were organized to fall under the "Order Of Battle" (the way military units were grouped) along with Ambulances and Field Hospitals. That makes sense because under only the most severe circumstances would bandsmen and medical personal be expected to engage in actual combat, though, not out of the realm of possibility. Pictured here is a typical regimental band from World War I.



Robert J. Bentley was mustered out of the military on August 13, 1919. Thank you Robert and all veterans for your service to our county.



Left: A detail of the tags from the trombone "case."

Lower left: 1st Infantry Regiment Band, Minnesota Army National Guard, Camp Llano Grande, Texas, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Special Exhibit on WWI

Look for a special exhibit on World War I featuring items from the Museums' and private collections curated by Jeff Schave and Museum Director Diana Bolander at this year's Heritage Day July 4th Community Picnic. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World Way I.

Lyceum Lectures

African Americans gained voting rights after challenges

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

Christy Clark-Pujuara chats with member Marilyn Gottschalk

Modern Wisconsin often views the state's residents in the mid to early 1800s and early 1900s as having progressive political preferences on numerous issues. However, African Americans experienced many roadblocks before the Wisconsin Supreme Court extended suffrage to all African Americans in 1866.

University of Wisconsin-Madison history professor Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara's presentation in the Municipal Auditorium on Sunday, February 25, 2018, about "Early Black Suffrage in Wisconsin" outlined the history of how African Americans - having gained their freedom at the end of the Civil War in April 1865 - became eligible to vote. It was the first program in the 2018 Winter Lyceum Speaker Series.

The key legal case began when Ezekiel Gillespie of Milwaukee attempted to register to vote on October 31, 1865, but the city's Seventh Ward denied his voter registration. He was turned away at the polls the next day when he attempted to vote.

Gillespie filed a lawsuit claiming that the Board of Canvassers misinterpreted the definition of abstaining voters on a statewide black suffrage referendum in 1849 when the board counted a large number of abstention ballots as "no" votes. In 1866 the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruled in Gillespie's favor; thus, the court's decision meant African Americans had the right to vote. The ruling came on a legal technicality, but it made Wisconsin the first state in the Midwest to approve black suffrage, Dr. Clark-Pujara said.

The professor, who teaches in the Department of Afro-American Studies, explained that statewide referendums to allow African Americans to vote also failed in 1857 and 1865. The Republican Party, which dominated Wisconsin politics during the Civil War and the post-Civil War eras, had a reputation for being progressive, she said, but there was a split among Wisconsin voters on the issue of giving voting rights to free African Americans.

"Racism is complex," she said. "It isn't black or white; it's many shades of gray."

She cited the example of how many Wisconsin residents assisted escaped slaves reach freedom in Canada before and during the Civil War. However, the same Wisconsin residents who assisted escaped slaves did not unanimously approve of allowing African Americans the freedom to vote.

Dr. Clark-Pujara noted that the progressive and racist attitudes occurred simultaneously across Wisconsin in the mid-1800s. She advised historians and students doing research into African American rights in Wisconsin to go beyond preconceived notions and stereotypes. African Americans represent a small segment of the state's population, but their impact upon culture, the economy and government has extended from the 1720s to the remaining disparities in the 21st century.

Museums Education Coordinator Mary Huck said that Dr. Clark-Pujara's presentation - like several lyceum programs - adds a broader scope to the context of the region's history to enhance and enrich the public's knowledge. Such presentations also allow the audience to interact with historians actively engaged in pursuing in-depth studies.

Thank you to Dr. Christy Clark-Pujara, Dr. Evan Larson, David HB Drake, and Dr. Alison Staudinger for sharing your research and stories with over 200 people at this year's lyceum lectures at the Platteville Municipal Auditorium.

A special thank you to Hap and Barb Daus and Dave and Sarah Allen for sponsoring this year's programs.

Members & Donors

Thank you 2018 Donors and Members

This list reflects all dues and donations received between 1/1/2018 and 3/31/2018.

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

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You donations made it possible to have David HB Drake perform for over 600 local students this year.

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 Diana at (608) 348-3301 or museums@platteville.org with questions.

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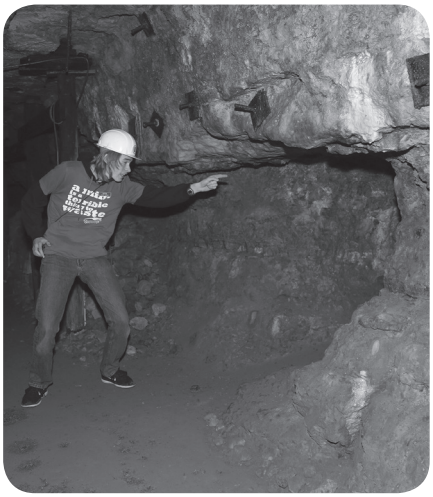
Bevans Lead Mine Re-Opens for Tours this May



Tour guide Seth Enz points into a bear hold in the Bevans Lead Mine.

The Mining and Rollo Jamison Museums are proud to re-open the Bevans Lead Mine for the 42nd year of mine tours. Tours of the Bevans Lead Mine will be available again this May to take visitors through over 100 years of local lead and zinc mining history.

Mine tours will be available this year Wednesdays through Sundays, May 1st through October 31st at 10:30 am, 12:00 pm, 1:30 pm, and 3:30 pm. Mine tours are free for Museum Members.

The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
PLATTEVILLE
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Contact Us

The Mining & Rollo Jamison Museums
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Platteville, WI 53818
(608) 348-3301
museums@platteville.org

Visit us on the web at mining.jamison.museum

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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