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Preface

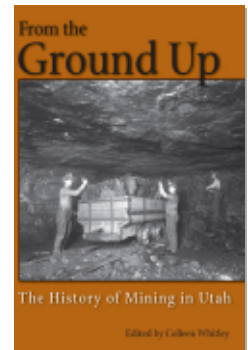
Published by

Whitley, Colleen.

From the Ground Up: A History of Mining in Utah.

First edition ed. Utah State University Press, 2006.

Project MUSE. <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9302>.



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PREFACE

Colleen Whitley

Mining is Utah's oldest nonagricultural industry. It is also the largest. The mining industry has directly employed thousands in mining, milling, refining, and transporting ores. That employment has in turn created thousands more jobs in the support sector: people who provide groceries, clothing, homes, and the dozens of other goods and services needed to maintain a population. Mining has contributed so much to the state that when the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee chose three mascots for the 2002 Winter Games, two of them honored mining.¹ Despite mining's importance to Utah's people and their economy, a single-volume history of the industry in the state does not exist. This book fills that void, providing an overview of major mining ventures and guideposts to further research.

The book is organized into three sections. The first covers global issues that impact the entire state, beginning with the geology of the region that produced such a remarkable range of mineral wealth, from plate tectonics through the volcano at the bottom of the Bingham Copper Mine. The mineral wealth produced by that geology in turn has impacted the economic well-being (and occasionally ill-being) of Utahns ever since Patrick E. Connor, commercial mining-exploration pioneer, sent his soldiers out from Fort Douglas looking for mineral wealth. Though the folklore of mining and miners may not impinge directly on the state's history or economy, nonetheless the tales miners told each other enliven all of us, whether we have ever gone searching for the lost Rhoades Mine or listened for Tommy Knockers haunting the depths of the caverns.

The second section of the book is devoted to particular mineral industries, some centered in one area, some found across the state, some extending over centuries, and others operating only for a short time, with each chapter focused on a specific mineral or ore: salt, coal, uranium, and beryllium.

The third part of the book explores Utah's major mining regions, organized chronologically by the first major or commercial ventures in each one. Metal mining began in Utah in the late 1840s, and the first mining district was created in 1863, but when Congress passed a general mining law in 1872, it opened vast stretches of federal land to exploration and development, and within a few years Utah Territory had more than 90 mining districts.² Obviously this book does not contain histories of all of those, but most,

whether or not they are specifically named, are encompassed within these chapters.³ Each chapter gives an overview of the exploration and development of mining in a specific geographic area. Along the way, we are introduced to some of Utah's most fascinating people, from the miners who descended into tunnels carrying pickaxes to those who stayed in offices wielding pens—individuals like Tom Kearns, who parlayed his mining fortune into a political and publishing career; Joe Hill, who organized unions until he was executed for a murder he may or may not have committed; and Jesse Knight, who ran the only saloon-free, brothel-free mining town in the West. Some people we meet as groups, immigrants from many nations who brought their own customs, religions, foods, and traditions that add to the state's diversity and widen our viewpoints.

Finally, this book provides readers with some tools for further research into those areas they may want to examine in more detail. The glossary of geologic and mining terms includes both historic and current usages and guides to Web sites that are constantly being updated. The research resources extend far beyond the works cited in this volume, listing research centers and organizations, reference works, and a broad sampling of histories, biographies, technical analyses, and government publications.

Mining in the state of Utah impacts our economy and ecology; it is part of our heritage and will be part of our future. We need to understand mining operations to make knowledgeable decisions in public policy and balance our demand for minerals with our desire for wilderness. This book provides a starting point for that understanding.

A book of this kind is possible only because a great many busy and talented people were willing to share their time and expertise to prepare it. Each chapter has been researched and written by an authority with access to information on a specific topic. I greatly appreciate the extensive research and concise presentations from each of these generous authors: geologists J. Wallace Gwynn and William T. Parry; historians, both by profession and passion, Thomas G. Alexander, John Barton, Martha Bradley, Hal Compton, James Fell, David Hampshire, Larry James, Brigham D. Madsen, Philip Notarianni, Kent Powell, W. Paul Reeve, and Janet Seegmiller; company insiders Robert Rampton, Debra Wagner, and Bruce Whitehead; and writers Raye Ringholz and Carma Wadley.

Thanks also to several others whose contributions have greatly enriched this volume. The idea for the book came from the fertile brain of Judy Dykman, who recognized the need for a single volume to provide a comprehensive view of this important factor in the state's history. Several people provided essential background information or otherwise aided writers and researchers: Douglas Alder, Louis Cononelos, J. Kenneth Davis, Richard Sadler, and Kathryn Shirts. The Utah Mining Association and the Charles Redd Center at Brigham Young University generously helped underwrite printing costs. Kennecott Utah Copper, the Utah State Historical Society, and the *Deseret Morning News* graciously opened their photo archives, providing a range of pictures, some never before published. My husband, Tom, has helped with technical problems, and John Alley of Utah State University Press has offered his customary excellent support and advice. I am grateful to all of them.