

The Hoosac Tunnel

compiled from posts on Miningcollect

Deric English recently bought a stereoview card of the Hoosac Tunnel, and this generated some discussion.

Mark Bohannon stated: "The Hoosac Tunnel was one of the first tunnels that was driven with the use of explosives. It was started in 1855 by the Troy and Greenfield Railroad. Van Gelders book on Explosives Companies of America on pages 1042 and 1043. "

Dale Borasca replied: "Hoosac Tunnel is a railroad tunnel in northwestern Massachusetts (near North Adams). It was the first long tunnel project attempted in the States, and was very important to the mining industry (as well as the railroad industry), because it was where many of the early rock drills were tested and revised. It took 21 years to complete (1855-1876), but would have taken a century had they not switched from hand drilling and gunpowder to compressed air drilling and nitroglycerine. There were two shafts sunk so that work could be carried out on more than two faces. A great book on the subject is "Tunnels" by Gosta Sandstrom. "

