

INFORMATION ON DEADWOOD'S ASSAYER FOUND

by Ted Bobrink
Redlands, California

The article in *MAC* #19 about the assayer's bag from Deadwood, South Dakota, produced a number of interesting replies. Most were in the form of a photograph of Moses H. Lyon, like the one in this article sent to us by Deric English of Boron, California. This photograph appeared in a recently published book entitled *The Gold Belt Cities, Deadwood And Environs - A Photographic History* (Taylor Publishing Company, Dallas, Texas, 1988.). As you can read in the photo's caption, Mr. Lyon was an early mining engineer.



Moses H. Lyon, early mining engineer and Deadwood resident.
(Photo by J.C.H. Grabill, Deadwood, Dakota Territory)

Another reader found Mr. Lyon listed as the general manager of the Tinton Mining Company in the town of Tinton near Deadwood. Yet another reader found him listed as a co-owner in the Bottleson mine located in Fantail Gulch, Deadwood, South Dakota.

The Tinton Company, operating at Nigger Hill, in western Lawrence county, has built a 100-ton tin mill. The vein, which is over 100 feet wide, and can be followed for miles on this and adjoining properties, has been well developed to supply the mill. The plant is equipped with late improved concentrators. A neat village, run on the co-operative plan, has been built. The president is Charles Waite, Chicago; secretary-treasurer, E. W. Noakes, Chicago; general manager, M. H. Lyon, Deadwood. As this book goes to press we learn that the company is already shipping its ore to Liverpool, England.

The Bottleson mine owned three claims, the Livingston, Monte Cristo and Marzbury. These claims were situated in the bottom of Fantail Gulch, and were located in April of 1886. The person or persons that located the claims are not known, but in 1891 the property was bonded to Mose Lyon and Perry Ankeny. Several short tunnels and open cuts were developed and by the end of 1891 a shaft was sunk and ore was found at the 100-foot level. The shaft was deepened to 165 feet, but the water flow into the shaft was so large that a steam pump had to be installed by mid-1892. When the shaft had been dewatered by the Dean pump, the shaft was deepened to 168 feet.

I have to admit, for a while I was a little disappointed that no one was able to find him listed as an assayer until we received a letter from Keith and Kristi Schillinger of Lead, South Dakota. They found Mr. Lyon listed in a 1902 Deadwood business directory as follows:

*Lyon, M.H. & Co., Henry P. Cheairs.
Assayers, 37 Lee St., Deadwood, South Dakota.*

A few weeks later, we received another letter from Keith and Kristi with a copy of a billhead that they had just found dated Jan. 1, 1900 from the Union Assay Office, Deadwood, S.D. On the billhead M.H. Lyon was listed as the "Proprietor."

Collecting mining artifacts has been a fascinating and fun part of my life as I know it is with yours. It is really the icing on the cake when you are able to share that fun with your friends that have a mutual interests. To me, it's always as much fun finding out a little history about something I have as it is in finding the item in the first place. And when you can share that information with friends, it makes collecting all the more fun. After all, it wouldn't be fun if you were the only person in the world collecting mining artifacts, would it? But, on second thought, I can think of a few collectors that act like they would love to own it all to themselves, but are they having fun?



168 SOCIETY AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY—DEADWOOD	
Harrison Telephone Co., G. G. Bennett, pres.; George Cornwall, mgr.	Lowenthal, Louis, junk dealer.
HATTENBACH, J. & Bro., (Joseph and Aaron), Grocers.	Lubben, Co., John Westpheling, pres., general mdse.
Hawley, Clermont E., musical instruments.	Lyon, Libble M., dressmaker.
Hayes, Robert C., attorney.	Lyon, M. H., & Co., (Henry P. Chairs), assayers, 37 Lee.
Hiawatha Gold Mining and Exploration Co.	McClintock, John S., propr. Deadwood and Spearfish stage line.
Herrman, John, (est. of) Wm. A. Ickes, mgr.	McDONALD, Edward (Mayor), Saddlery and Harness.
	McGill, Henry, contractor.
	McHUGH, CHARLES E., Mining

Deadwood, S. D., JAN 1- 1900 1899

M. H. Lyon & Co

To UNION ASSAY OFFICE, Dr.

Foot of Lee Street Stairs.

1899 M. H. LYON, Proprietor.

<i>Dec 1 to 30 Assaying</i>	<i>400</i>
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