

John Hays Hammond & The Bunker Hill Mine (Stock Certificates)

by

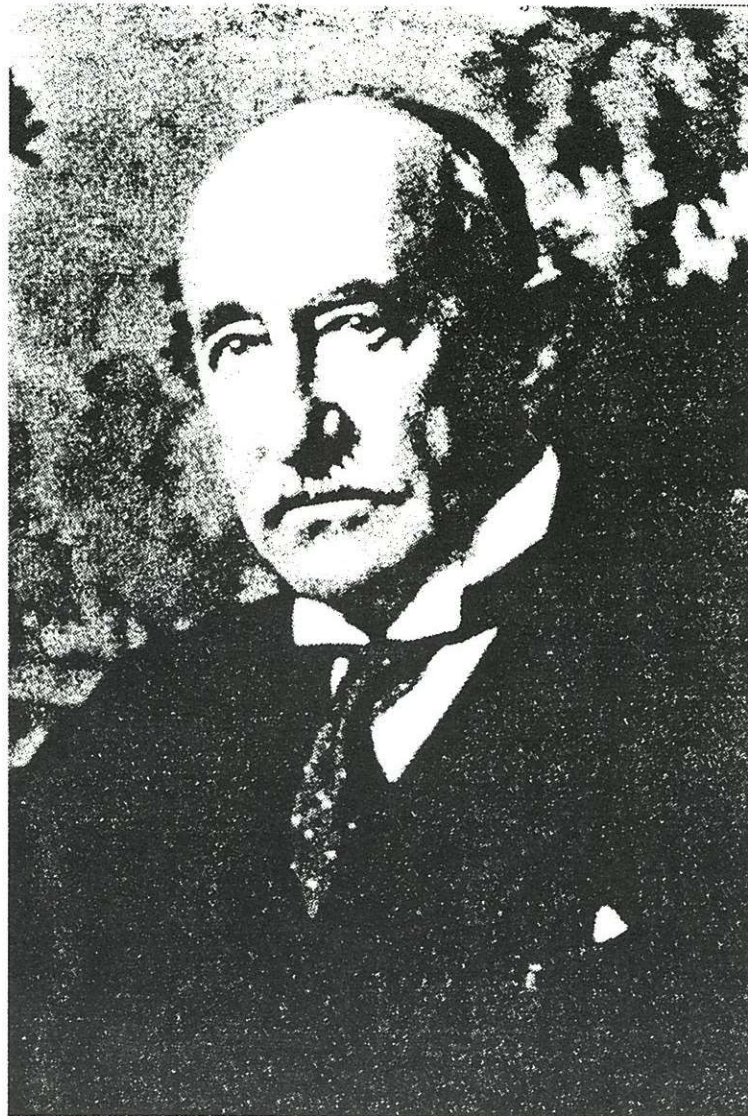
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From 1890 to World War I, American mining engineers especially those from California, were in worldwide demand.

John Hays Hammond was one of these engineers. He was, perhaps, only second to Herbert Hoover in prominence. He was the son of a '49er and a graduate of Yale and Freiberg; his career would bring him to be offered numerous ambassadorships, meet kings, and know every president from Grant to Hoover - excepting Arthur. His salary in 1896 was \$75,000 a year; his salary from the Guggenheims in 1903 was reported to be a million dollars a year. He would consult in Russia, Mexico, China, South America, and Africa. He consulted for Cecil Rhodes in Africa, where he was instrumental in the deep development of the Witwatersrand; together, they would start a war against the Boer government of South Africa.

The stock certificate shown on the next page was issued to Hammond's son by the Bunker Hill Mining Co. I also have similar certificates issued

to Hammond himself and to his wife. Hammond was given twenty-five hundred shares for organizing the company. He purchased stock and owned 32,962 shares by September of 1892.



John Hays Hammond: esteemed mining engineer (from John Hays Hammond's Autobiography).

The certificates are signed by Frederick W. Bradley, another famous mining engineer. Bradley had first made his reputation in the gold quartz mines of California. It is evident that Hammond was instrumental in placing Bradley with the Bunker Hill Mine. In 1896, Hammond guaranteed Bradley ten thousand dollars a year to keep him at the mine. He was also instrumental in supporting Bradley as a manager. When Bradley felt threatened by a consulting engineer, Christopher Corning, Hammond backed Bradley. Bradley was apparently an able manager. He was managing the Bunker Hill during the mining wars of the Coeur d' Alene district. For his part, he may have been the victim of an

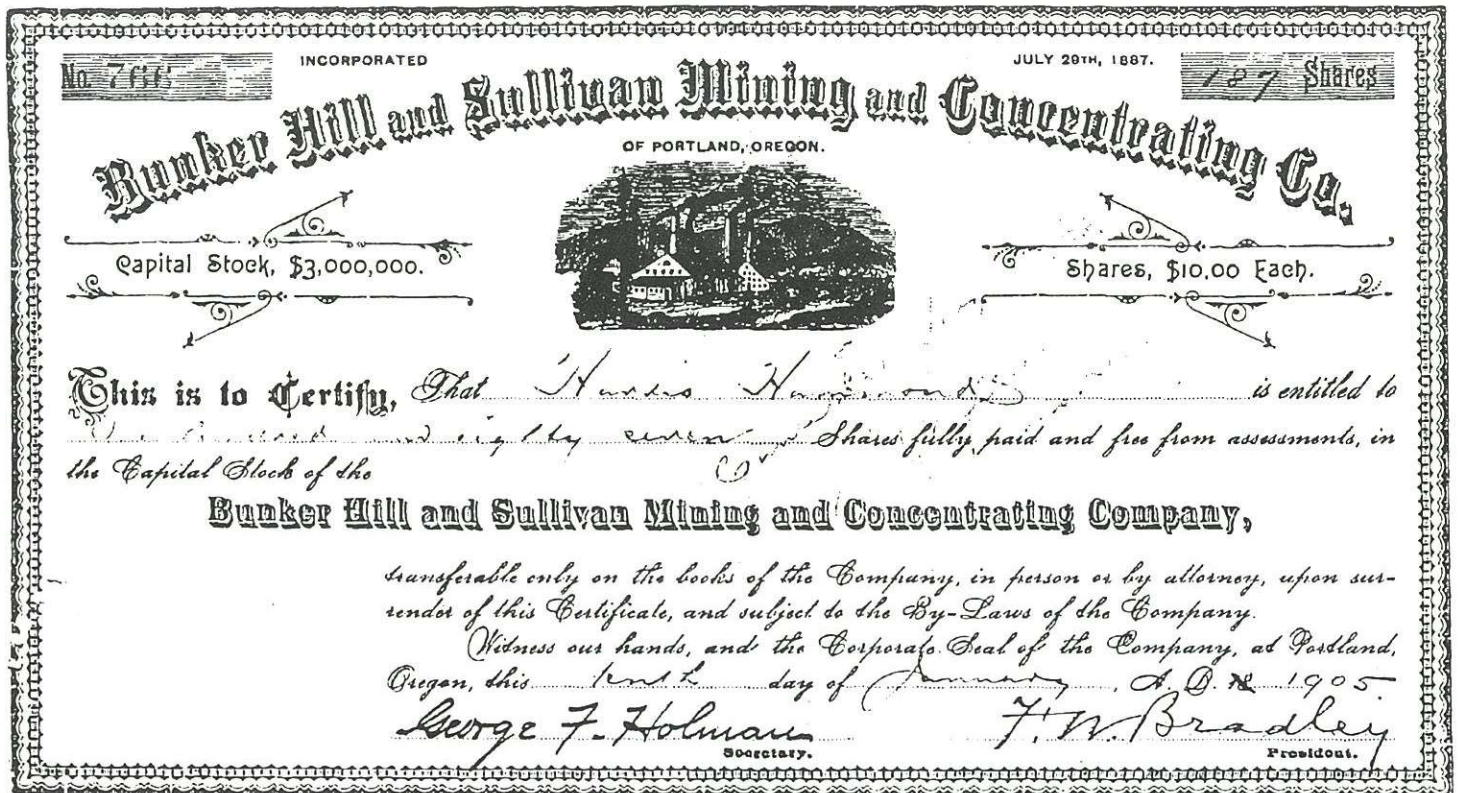
assassination attempt; his apartment blew up, either through a gas explosion or a bomb placed by Harry Orchard; Bradley survived.

Hammond's and Bradley's relationship appears to have fallen apart in 1900. Hammond secured an option on placer ground on the Yuba river in California; Hammond was enthusiastic. Bradley's initial reports were

favorable; however, he eventually dropped the option. Bradley picked up options on adjoining ground. Hammond accused Bradley of unethical conduct and prepared to bring suit over the money Bradley gained on the adjoining ground. Hammond bought an interest in the original property from the person who picked up the option. The property was put into production and evidently made

money. Hammond was bitter, as evidenced by his scolding remarks about Bradley in his autobiography.

In addition to Hammond and Bradley, several other notable mining engineers worked at the Bunker Hill - Victor Clement, Albert Burch, and Stanley Easton among them. Victor Clement built his holdings in Bunker Hill stock to 36,301 shares.



Bunker Hill Mine Stock Certificate issued to the son of John Hays Hammond (Harris). This and other certificates issued to John Hays Hammond and to his wife Natalie are from the author's collection. They were given to him by his father, Norman Radford, who was a geologist at the Bunker Hill Mine.

References

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