

# BUNKER HILL MINING COMPANY STOCK

## CERTIFICATES ISSUED TO JOHN HAYS HAMMOND

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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.

Figure 1 is a stock certificate issued to John Hays Hammond by the Bunker Hill Mining Company. Stock certificates were also issued to his wife, Natalie Harris Hammond, and to his son, Harris Hammond. Hammond was given 2,500 shares for organizing the company. He then purchased stock and owned 32,962 shares by September of 1892.

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



TAFT AND MYSELF

The photograph to the left is of John Hays Hammond (at left) and President William Howard Taft (on the right). William Howard Taft was the twenty-seventh president of the United States from 1909 to 1913. John Hays Hammond was a highly successful mining engineer and knew every president from Grant to Hoover--excepting Arthur.

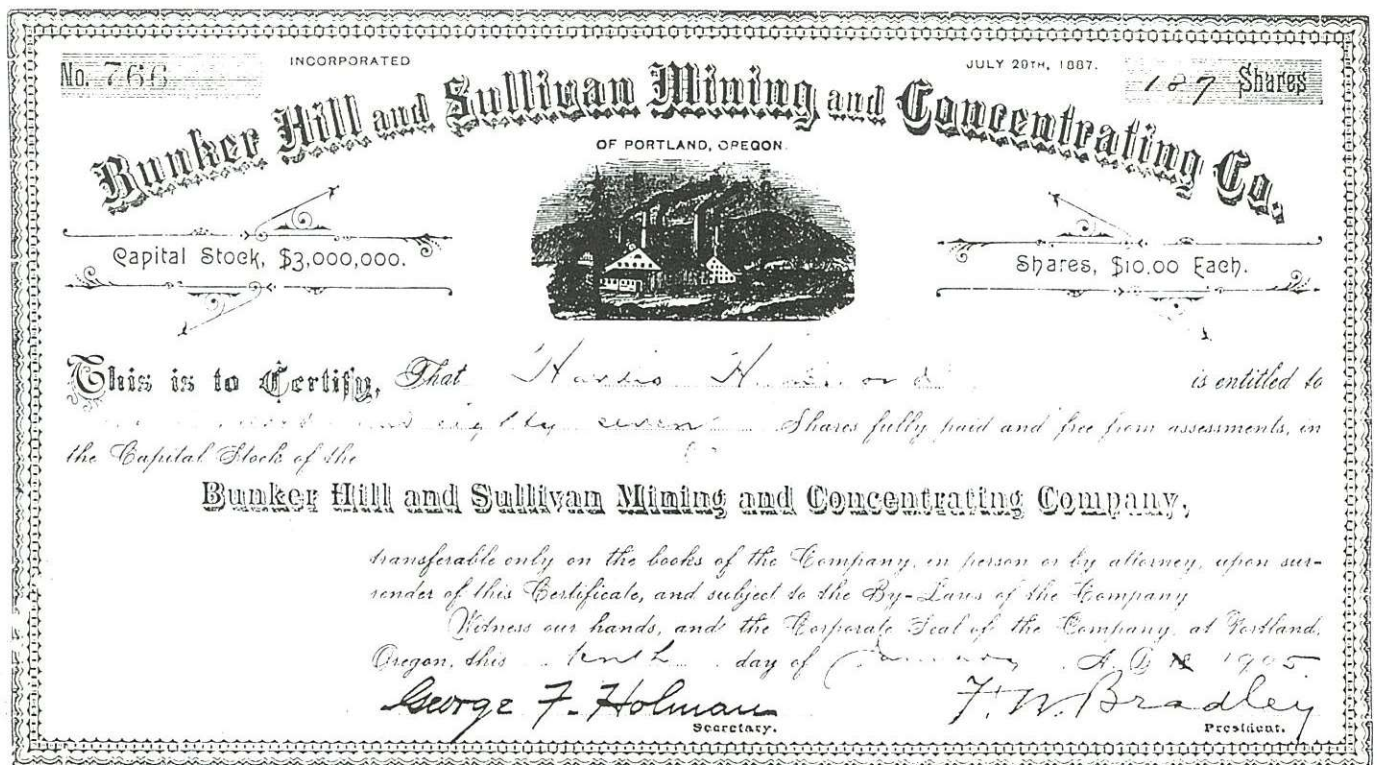
In 1929, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers presented him with their highest award, the William Lawrence Saunders medal.

with the Bunker Hill Mining Company. In 1896, Hammond guaranteed Bradley \$10,000 a year to keep him at the mine. He also was 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 attempted 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, Hammond 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.



A stock certificate issued to Harris Hammond, the son of John Hays Hammond, by the Bunker Hill Mining Company. Stock certificates were also issued to John Hays Hammond and to his wife, Natalie Harris Hammond. Hammond was given 2,500 shares for organizing the company. He then purchased stock and owned 32,962 shares by September of 1892. The certificates are also signed by Frederick W. Bradley, another famous mining engineer.

## CHRONOLOGY

- 1879 Hammond leaves Freiberg to work for George Hearst; Hammond reviews estimates of the Camp Bird Mine provided by Bradley and T.A. Rickard; Hammond claims that both have grossly overestimated its worth.
- 1882 Clement goes to work at a property Hammond is managing in Mexico.
- 1885 Hammond made consulting engineer of the Empire mine in Grass Valley, California. Noah Kellogg and Philip O'Rourke discover Bunker Hill lode.
- 1886 Hammond turns down offer to be manager of Bunker Hill--recommends Clement.
- 1887 Bunker Hill mine sold to Simeon Reed; Noah Kellogg receives \$150,000. Victor Clement is made manager. The Bunker Hill & Sullivan Mining and Concentrating Company incorporated. Clement attempts to reduce wages and the miners form the Wardner Miner's Union.
- 1890 Hammond meets Bradley; Bradley made Clement's assistant on Hammond's recommendation.
- 1891 Reed enlists Hammond to raise financial backing; Hammond made president of Bunker Hill. Mine Owner's Protective Association formed.
- 1892 Clement involved in Coeur d' Alene mining wars. D.O. Mills of San Francisco, and James L. Houghteling of Chicago, buy 50,000 shares at \$3 each; other investors are W.H. Crocker, Victor Clement, Cyrus H. McCormick, and N.H. Harris (Hammond's wife's uncle).
- 1893 Clement goes to South Africa with Hammond; Bradley is made manager; Hammond's wife's uncle is made president.
- 1894 Hammond goes to work for Cecil Rhodes.
- 1895 Hammond involved in the Jameson Raid.
- 1897 Bradley made president of the Bunker Hill--holds this position until his death. Hammond consulting in Russia.
- 1899 Bunker Hill mill is blown up by strikers.

- 1900 Hammond brings suit against Bradley over Bradley's mismanagement of a California placer property.
- 1901 Bradley succeeded by Albert Burch.
- 1903 Hammond goes to work for the Guggenheim Exploration Company. Clement dies. Burch succeeded by Stanley A. Easton.
- 1905 Guggenheim's buy shares from Clement's widow.
- 1907 Hammond retires from the Guggenheim Exploration Company--starts to dabble in politics. The 10,000 foot Kellogg Tunnel is completed at the Bunker Hill mine.
- 1917 Bunker Hill smelter starts operation.
- 1981 The Bunker Hill mine is closed.



AT THE BUNKER HILL MINE, IDAHO, IN THE EIGHTIES

## REFERENCES CITED

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