

Mining

The lure of gold brought a great influx of settlers to Idaho and Montana during the early 1860s. First centered around Bannack and Virginia City, the miners quickly spread out around the territory seeking new gold fields. The early settlements were governed by mining districts, which set rules for claiming land, recorded the claims, and provided a primitive form of government. Different mining districts produced different metals depending on the geology of the area. For example, Bannack, Virginia City, and Marysville were predominantly gold; Philipsburg was predominantly silver and manganese; and Butte was predominantly copper.

Featured Collections

Abandoned Mine Lands – Historical Narratives (DEQ)

<http://deq.mt.gov/Land/AbandonedMines/linkdocs>

These historical narratives of mining districts provide, historic context, district boundaries and histories of selected mines.

Montana Industrial Accident Board records, 1915-1971 (RS 310) *Finding aid available online.*

Consists of a financial journal, Board minutes, and two subject files concerning the Speculator and Bear Creek (Smith Mine) mine disasters.

John R. Marchi papers, 1943-1957 (SC 1971)

Served as attorney for the Atomic Minerals Corporation (AMC), a uranium mining concern with claims in Jefferson and Silver Bow County, Montana. Papers consist primarily of correspondence concerning AMC; AMC financial records; legal documents including mining claims and leases, etc.; and miscellaneous materials regarding the Mooney and Washington mines.

Butte, Montana richest hill on earth: 100 years of underground mining (A-725)

Includes mine locations, tunnel depths, headframes existing as of 2004 and historical ponds, streams and wetlands.

T.N. Bobbitt reminiscence, undated (SC 446)

T.N. Bobbitt, a Virginia City and Diamond City, Montana Territory, placer miner, discusses his experiences in the mining stampede to Sun River in 1865.

For more resources, follow the link located at the bottom on the online version of this guide.



Ruby Gulch Mine, Zortman,
Montana
Catalog Number: Pac 2011-65.16

Search the catalog

To explore further and make your own discoveries, visit mhs.mt.gov/research

Suggested SEARCH TERMS

Mining Company

Specific mining company

Placer/Industrial mining

[gold, silver, copper, coal, quartz, uranium, other specific minerals] mining

[town] mining

Mining Districts

Mining by laws

Mineral Resources