

A History of the Hoover Hill Gold Mine

Overview

In 1848, a gold lode deposit was discovered on the east side of the Uwharrie River in the Hoover Hill-Mt. Pleasant Community. This deposit was worked for several years by lessees, which inhibited its full development. In 1881, the same year as the founding of Mt. Pleasant Community Church, the Hoover Hill Gold Mining Co., Ltd. of London gained control of the mine. Over the following 14 years, an estimated \$300,000 in gold was extracted from the mine, which would become the principal gold producer in Randolph County. The mine continued periodic, small-scale production for the next several decades. Total gold production is estimated to have been approximately \$350,000, or 17,000 ounces of gold. Adjusted to today's gold prices, that is equal to around \$14,960,000 in gold.

North Carolina Geological Survey. Bulletin No. 10, Gold Mining in North Carolina and Adjacent South Appalachian Regions, Nitze and Wilkens. Raleigh, 1897.

The Hoover Hill mine is situated about 10 miles west of Asheboro and 17 miles east of south from High Point. The country-rock is a basic eruptive which is partially brecciated, the included fragments being hornstone. In part the rock is slightly schistose. The ore-bodies consist of belts in this porphyrite, which are pyritic and filled with reticulated quartz-veins from less than 1 inch to 12 inches in thickness. The strike of the belts is KE. and the dip 30°-60° S.E. The ore bodies are intersected by pyroxenic dikes. The mine has been opened to a depth exceeding 300 feet. The so-called Briols shoot at this depth furnished ore worth \$8 to \$10 per ton. The mine was working in June, 1895. It was equipped with a 20-stamp mill in 1882.

The Wilson-Kindley mine is one-half mile southwest from the Hoover Hill, and the formation is similar.

"New York Times Magazine," June 9, 1929, by Nixon Plummer

Hoover Gold Mine, according to the most authentic story of its origin, was the result of an accident, and was not established by virtue of any inherent Hoover tendency toward mine engineering. Its success does illustrate the pioneering nature which the Hoovers from Andrew Sr. down have shown. The mine was established by Joseph Hoover in aggap (sic) of the los (sic) mountain spur near the mill seat, as the result of an accident to the Hoover wagon. One day Joseph and a half-breed Indian, named John Singer, were driving up the hill for a load of lightwood knots. When the rear wagon wheel broke, the Indian jumped down to investigate; he found that it had crashed through a big rock in the road. Picking up the rock, they saw that it gleamed.

That was the origin of the gold mine as told by John Hunt, who lives near it today (1930) and whose father, Evans Hunt, deceased in 1920 at the age of 86 years. Evans Hunt was a friend of Joseph, John, and other Hoovers in that section.

This mine for years was a steady producer of gold. Its payroll as late as 1880 was

\$12,000 a month. The mine sold once for \$20,000. Another time it sold for \$80,000. The story is that it was at one time one of the principal gold producers in the eastern part of the United States. It is in operation today for crushed stone, not gold (1930). The workable vein of gold long ago has given out, but it is said that every truckload of crushed rock from it contains as much as \$40 worth of gold. A prominent geologist of North Carolina is understood to have suggested that some of the gold be assayed out just to give Herbert Hoover a sample of what one of his ancestors possessed.

Sources

<http://www.fivehoovers.com/Narratives.htm>

http://www.49ermike.com/randolph_nc.shtml

http://www.farlang.com/diamonds/nitze-gold-mining/page_047