

The Central Virginia Gold Prospectors World News and Report

Circulation: 8 or 9 maybe 10
Issue # 2

Wednesday, Feb 7, 2007

Publication: Weekly,
Monthly, or when we get time

The Booker Goldmine

As we learned in our earlier issue, the Booker Goldmine was one of the first Gold Mines to open in the country and it opened in that golden age between the years 1825 to 1835, or the first gold rush.

The Booker Goldmine also has another historical feature. It was one of the first goldmines in the country where underground mining was conducted or "Hard Rock". Before Underground operations commenced, most of the upper portion of the

Booker Vein was removed by open cut surface mining. Trenches were dug 30 feet deep and for



One of the Trenches

length of 400 yards along the outcrop. By 1853 5 shafts had been sunk to an average depth of 100 feet and connected by drives 350 feet in length.

It is also interesting to point out the dates involved here.

According to the records on file here is a list of owners:

Morrow	Gold	Mine
1835		
Bookers		
1853		
English Syndicate		1860
Owners unknown		1860-1905
Bedford Paper		1905
& Pulp		
Burrus Land		1933
& Lumber		

In the early years the property actually was two mines located on the same vein approximately 100 yards apart.

These companies were the W.M. Moseley & Company and the Garnett Mining Company.

They were referred to as the Garnett and Mosley Mines or Booker Mine. In 1852 they

were consolidated under one company and for a few years it was controlled by an English Company. Since about 1880 this property has been referred to as the Morrow Mine.

It looks like the brits



Booker Gold Mine Nugget

took a pounding by buying the mine right

before the War Between the States broke out. As with most it the mines in this area they were striped of resources by whichever army found it first.

The Equipment

Some of the equipment used at the mine included the following:

24 Stamp Stamp Mill
72 Stamp Stamp Mill
Howland Mill
Ball Mill
Chilian Mill
Shaker Tables

Gold

The following production numbers were reported to the US Mint:

1850	97.92
1851	108.49

1852 51.30

That's right 250 Troy Pounds of gold were reported to the US Mint from the Booker Mine. Also notice that is was during the height of the California Gold Rush.



Booker Gold Mine Nugget

Many people like to discuss the history of the War Between the States. The important role southern gold played is not to be overlooked either. It played a bigger role in the formative years of our country.

Keep in mind we had just over come the War for Independence. The US Continental Dollar was worth 3 cents. When gold started coming out of Virginia and North Carolina and later Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, it added real wealth to our treasury. One hundred dollars of found added one hundred dollars to the wealth of our country. We finally had gold reserves to back our money. The War for Independence was financed with \$ 3 million dollars of tobacco, by 1837 the southern states had pumped over \$ 5 million dollars of found wealth into our treasury. By the time gold was discovered in 1848 in California the southern

mines had pumped over \$ 12 million dollars of gold into the treasury.

So there you have it. Our claim is located on a very historically significant location. The Booker Gold Mine is one of the first gold mines to open in the country. It is documented as being the first underground mine. The old timers found a ton of gold there. The old timers didn't get it all. We are still

finding nice nuggets. As you

travel over the claim you can find signs of the old timers. The 400 yard trench is still visible. Many of the shafts are still visible and many of the old tailing piles are still around. A word of caution here, do not go in or near these trenches or shafts. One reason is a certain member is convinced a bear lives in one, but also you can get seriously hurt. Maybe it would be possible for us to preserve some of these areas. We know where both Mill Houses were. We have seen many shaft entrances and trenches. The tailing piles are all over. Would it be nice to try and clean up these areas and preserve them? After all we are only temporary gatekeepers.

Maybe we could discuss retrieving some of the artifacts and storing them before they are lost forever.

In our next issue we will try to explore some of the history around Claim #4. It is located between the London and Virginia, Buckingham and Burnett gold mines.



A piece of Ore