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Work and the Human Condition
Annotated Bibliography

The following bibliography focuses on mining in the Pacific Northwest from the 1850's through the 1920's. Areas of interest include the Roslyn mine, Carbon River, and Kittitas Valley.

Armstrong, L.K. Mining. Spokane, 1902

Armstrong's compilation of papers includes bulletins, correspondence and general technical information on mining in the pacific northwest (including Idaho and British Columbia). It also includes mineral deposit and maps specifically regarding silver and gold mining.

Ash, S H. Falls of roof and coal in Washington Mines. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Mines. Washington DC: 1932

Brief pamphlet on coal mine roof collapses in Washington State.

Campbell, Robert. An added objection: the use of blacks in the coal mines of Washington, 1880-1896. Vancouver: University of British Columbia, 1978.

A review of the poor treatment of blacks and other minorities in the coal mining industry in Washington. The horrid conditions and poor treatment of African Americans in the coal mines created conditions reminiscent of slavery. Blacks were an easy source of cheap labor for the mining companies.

Curtis, Asahel . Coal Creek Mine. 1909. Washington State Historical Society Museum, Tacoma. 24 January 2009.

The photograph these miners grouped together near the mine rail is a good general depiction of life in the mining towns late 19th, early 20th century. In the foreground is a large group of miners (all men) standing right next to a long line of mining carts. In the background can be seen women standing on the steps of modest home. The line of mining carts stretches around to the right and outside of the frame.

Curtis, Asahel . Sorting Coal at Newcastle Mine. 1902. Washington State Historical Society Museum, Tacoma. 24 January 2009.

The photograph of coal sorting initially seems mundane but close examination reveals and interesting level complexity. In nearly the exact middle of the picture can be seen an African American man sorting coal. The supervisor to the left appears to take a relaxed approach to his job. This photo is a good snapshot of the work of coal mining.

Gerry, N C. Gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc in Idaho and Washington in 1917: mines report. Washington: Government printing office, 1917.

Government reports on mining data ranging from extract amounts, topography, yields, and incident data.

Hall, Nancy. Carbon River Coal Country. Orting, WA: Heritage Quest Press, 1980

Hall focuses on nine mining towns in the Pierce county area. Much of the text is anecdotal or oral history of life in the mining towns. There is a good history of the area and it provides a look at the human element of mining. Good book for a social or interpersonal view of mining.

Hodges, L.K. Mining in Western Washington. Seattle, WA: The Shorey Book Store, 1986

Hodges offers an overview of the Western Washington mining economy. He includes mining data as well as anecdotes regarding the work of average miners. Good for a general look at mining in Western Washington.

Martin, Kenneth, and Martin, Vida. Gold Mining in Washington State, Yesterday and Today: Pioneer Stories. Bentonville: Golden Treasures Publishing, 1995.

A compilation of history and pioneer stories of the gold mining industry in Washington State. Gives good comparison to modern gold mining and historical context for the industry.

Meitzler, Stephen. Mining Tragedies in Carbon River Coal Country. Orting, WA: Heritage Quest Press, 1994.

Covering from 1890 to 1930 this book recounts the worst calamities in the mining industry in the Carbon River area. Includes illustrations, witness statements, newspaper clips, and some commentary. Though about mining, this would be a good resource for sensationalist media responses to disasters.

Mark Stern, "Black Strikebreakers in the Coal Fields: King County, Washington -- 1891", Journal of Ethnic Studies 53 (1977): 60-70.

This is a historic account of King county mining strikes in 1891 and the racial element to both the strikes and the breaking of the strikes. Both blacks and whites were a part of the striking miners.

Norton, R. Henry. Transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. New York: AIME, 1991.

Recounts Oregon's entry into the union and the development and progression of the mining industries there. Specifically accounts for why that state overlooked mining or resource development in favor of a more agriculturally based economy. Also commentary on the emigrant community surrounding coal mining.

Washington. DNR. Mining Laws of the State of WA. Olympia: WA Division of Geology and Earth Resources, 1974.

This government publication covers the mining laws of Washington State – historical and current. The values reflected in these mining laws are similar to those of Oregon, making the overall attitudes in Pacific Northwest fairly homogeneous. This is a good resource to understand the overall view of mining in Washington State.

Whitside, James. Regulating Danger: The Struggle for Mine Safety in the Rocky Mountain Coal Industry. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990.

Examines industrial labor relations specifically related to the mining industry in the west area of the United States at the turn of the century. Recounts violence and turbulence of the mining industry's labor development. Includes illustrations.

Woodhouse, Philip. Discovering Washington's historic mines. Arlington: Oso Publishing Company, 1997.

A good resource for researching old abandoned mines in Washington State and the former Washington territory. Includes maps and historical data as well as stories regarding the conditions at the various mines.