

Forest Hill Divide Mines, 1866 to 1869, V 11--19

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 11, 12/30/1865, p. 406

Placer.—The Auburn Stars and Stripes of December 20th, says that Mr. A. Harpending, of the Baker claim, at Whisky Diggings, from four days' run of his new mill of three stamps, took yesterday thirty-five pounds of hard amalgam. The rock crushed was a rotten quartz and slate. The ledge is 300 feet wide and 1,000 feet long, and is believed to be rich throughout its whole extent.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 12, 1/6/1866, p. 6

Placer.—According to the Placer Herald, over one hundred ounces of gold was lately taken out of the Oro tunnel claim, near Forest Hill, as the week's work of four men. This tunnel was commenced in the year 1853, and this is the first good yield ever had from it. We have a very interesting report of mining

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 12, 2/3/1866, p. 70

Placer.—We learn that quite an improvement in the placer mining prospects are beginning to appear about Yankee Jims and Sarahsville, by reason of the introduction of machinery to work the cement ground, which it has been found impossible to work by the ordinary method of sluicing. Much of the gravel found here is of that peculiar cement character which it is necessary to work over five or six times, at great expense of hauling, etc., allowing it to lay in the meantime through one or more entire season to slack. Even then a large amount of gold was lost.

Something over a year ago, Mr. C. H. Dewey, the conducting manager of one of the principal mines near Sarahsville, decided to put up a crushing- mill,- similar to those employed in Nevada county. After a year's trial the plan has been found to succeed well. Crushing the gravel has been found here, as elsewhere, a decided success. This mill employs twenty stamps, driven by a 40-horse engine, although but ten stamps are employed at present. These ten stamps reduce from thirty to forty tons of cement every twenty-four hours.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 12, 3/12/1866, p. 166

Placer.—A correspondent writes from Todd's Valley, under date of March 13th, as follows :—" Permit me to inform you that Geo. G. Barnes, Esq. , editor of the Morning Call, and myself, saw cleaned up, in the Dardanelles Canon, half a mile below the place where they are sluicing, five hundred ounces of amalgam, (eighty days' run). They use B. H.Dunniug's Patent Under-Current Sluice, or Gold Separator, for saving the fine particles of gold. This company have used the 'Under-Current' about five years. They say they would not be without them for anything. Out of their lower Under-Current, away down in the Canon, they took out over \$300. There are many new companies using the Under-Current in this section of country. They all say they are invaluable. The proprietor has recently appointed Mr. John Hemsley sole agent for Idaho and Montana for this invention.

"Hard cement is all the go here at present. There are four mills for crushing cement being erected between this place and Forest Hill, (distance from here to Forest Hill three miles), ten stamps each, with a capacity of ten stamps each more if needed. The Boston Company had five car-loads crushed at the Baltimore Company's mills one day last week, which paid \$200. One-fourth of the Dewey claim, at Bath, was sold this week for \$1,200—the whole claim is only 200

feet front. This mill has been running about two years; it is paying well. There is cement enough on this divide to last for fifty years to come."

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 12, 3/24/1866, p. 182

The Dardanelles company near Forest Hill cleaned 532 ounces of amalgam, on the 19th instant. The Dewey claim, located at Bath, clean up from twelve to fourteen hundred dollars weekly, over and above expenses.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 12, 4/14/1866, p. 230

Placer County.—The Sacramento Bee of April 5th, says that the mining items in Placer county, which have been under a cloud for some years, are looking up. A private letter from Forest Hill says there is a great excitement there at present, by the discovery of the great wealth of a large number of old gravel and cement claims, which had been worked for years by the hydraulic and sluice processes, and which were considered worked out, and some of them abandoned as worthless. Recent developments, by the aid of crushing and amalgamating, have demonstrated that the bulk of their mineral resources had really never been touched. In years gone by, Forest Hill was one of the best mining localities in the State, and the old times are reviving.

The Stars and Stripes of April 4th, says that the Rough Gold company, at Bath, cleaned up last week, from one week's run, 173 ounces of gold. The previous week they cleaned up over 160 ounces. Other companies in the vicinity are doing well, but we have no figures from them.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 12, 5/12/1866, p. 296

Some idea of the immense changes which the face of the country has undergone since these ancient rivers found their way along what is now the flank of the Sierra, may be inferred from the fact, that these beds have been covered up by a detritus, a large portion of which is volcanic, to a depth of nearly or quite 1,000 feet. Since that deposit was made, the present system of rivers has had its origin, passing at a greater or less angle across this ancient deposit, and in some localities, as near Forest Hill in Placer county, they have cut their way down through this 1,000 feet of gravel and continued on from 200 to 3,000 feet deeper still, in the hard slate below

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 12, 6/9/1866, p. 358

The Herald says the cement mills at Bath and Forest Hill are a decided success, gravel is a decided success, and the renewed prosperity of that portion of the county is fixed beyond a peradventure

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 13, 8/4/1866, p. 70

From the Stars and Stripes of August 1st, we clip the following: We learn from James S. Stackhouse, Collector of the Third District, that a quartz ledge was discovered recently by some Mexicans, at Canada Hill in this county, about twenty-five miles above Michigan Bluff, the rock from which, taken from any portion of the ledge, will yield free gold at the rate of about one dollar per ounce. Parties went up from the Bluff to try to purchase, the ledge.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 13, 9/29/1866, p. 198

A friend writing us from Yankee Jim's, says several cement mills are being erected in that section. Mr. Ambruster is now building one on Georgia Hill. The claims on this hill years ago

were famous for their richness. The mill on the Missouri claim, in the same vicinity, is said to be making money.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 13, 10/6/1866, p. 214

The Stars and Stripes gives a list of the quartz and cement mills in the county, with the number of stamps in each. There are eleven cement mills, with an aggregate of 150 stamps. Of quartz mills, there are nine with a total of fifty stamps, and two others, one of forty and the other, of ten stamps, nearly completed. The 40-stamp mill is to work the Banker mine.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 13, 10/27/1866, p. 262

From the Placer Herald of the 20th : The Julian ledge, located on Jenny Lind Flat, and owned by C. H. Schnabel, has recently been yielding remarkably well—from \$8 to \$10 per ton. Mr. S. is now attaching to his mill one of "Hawkin's Grinders" for the purpose of saving sulphurets. He will have it in full operation next week. Mr. Schnabel has now reached a depth of 104 feet on his mine.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 13, 10/27/1866, p. 264

Rich Boulder Specimens.—Our attention was recently called to three quartz boulder specimens at the office of Mr. B. W. Mudge, No. 528 Clay street. The smallest, about the size of a hen's egg, we should judge to contain one-half its weight in pure gold. The largest piece was the remnant of a good sized boulder, which yielded 22 ounces of gold by hand-mortar process.

These specimens are from the blue gravel channel in the New Jersey claims owned by Mr. G. W. Reamer, at Forest Hill, Placer county. As a representative of gravel and cement mining, we understand this mine to be one of the best in the State. It embraces over 2,800 feet of tunnels. Its location is next to the Jenny Lind claims, also notable for extensive and rich gold deposits. The specimens alluded to came from what has been termed the "back channel," which proves to be an extension of the original or front lead. The front deposit is a red gravel, while the rear ground, but recently discovered, turns out the true blue gravel. Mr. Reamer informs us that there will in all probability be eleven cement mills in operation within a circuit of three miles about Forest Hill by the first of January next, against one in operation a year ago. All that are yet running are meeting with good success.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 13, 11/17/1866, p. 313

A New Rock: Drill.— We understand that Mr. R. A. Thomas, the inventor and patentee of the new drill to which we made brief allusion last week, proposes to visit the mines, in person, with the view of introducing the same. He will take with him one of the machines, which weighs about 150 pounds, and give practical illustrations of its value. The instrument is properly a machine hand drill, and works by pressure with a ratchet; the drill being held to its place by convenient appliances. It is designed to work only in moderately soft rock, but too hard to remove by the pick or gad, such, for instance, as the slate which usually underlies the cement diggings of the ancient river beds. The inventor is a practical miner, and devised the machine for the express purpose of tunneling in such rock, in his cement claims at Damascus, Placer county, at which place several of the machines are now in use. Mr. Thomas estimates that this drill has saved him at least \$1,000 in two years' working of his claim.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 1/12/1867, p. 22

Some of the mine owners about Forest Hill and Yankee Jim are proposing to hire Chinese to work their claims. We learn that an indignation meeting was held at the "Hill" on Saturday evening last

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 2/9/1867, p. 86

From the Stars and Stripes of Jan. 30th: The Dardenelles claim near Forest Hill, which has been successfully worked for a long series of years, is now being operated on a large scale. A "face" of nearly two hundred feet in height, by over eight hundred in breadth, is subjected to the action of three hydraulic pipes and the auriferous gravel is being moved by acres. We understand that this claim has never been in so good condition as at present.

The Oro mine, adjoining the celebrated Dardenelles claim, is now being actively worked. There is a fine 20-stamp mill on the Oro, through which the cement is being worked in large quantity. A pan for crushing and grinding sulphurets is being set up, and will be in operation in a few days.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 2/16/1867, p. 102

From the Herald of Feb. 9th: The abundance of rain that has fallen, causing the ditches to flow full, has given the miners a fine chance for hydraulicing. We predict a successful mining season in Placer.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 2/23/1867, p. 118

From the Stars & Stripes of Feb. 13th: A couple of boys were chasing a lot of stock up the ravine, a few days ago, and were pelting them with pebbles and stones which they would pick up on the side of the ravine, when the attention of one of the boys was attracted by the unusual weight of one of the stones thus picked up, which, on examination, proved to be a nugget of gold, weighing about 10% ounces, and worth about one hundred and twenty-eight dollars.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 3/2/1867, p. 134

From the Herald of Feb. 23^d : The Golden Exile company were to start their mill at Stewart's Flat again this week. A fine roasting furnace has been erected, and other improvements made since their mill was stopped.

Some rock recently sent from the Canada Hill mine, to be worked at the Golden Rule mill, yielded \$23 in gold to the ton. The ledge averages about four feet in thickness, and the rock crushed was taken indiscriminately from the lode.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 3/9/1867, p. 150

The Mountain Gate company at Damascus have been realizing for the past two years three thousand dollars per month, until the recent cave in their tunnel.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 3/23/1867, p. 182

From the Herald of March 16th: On Tuesday last McBride, McCarty & Co., struck a rich quartz specimen in the old Buckeye claim at Bird's Valley near Michigan Bluff. It weighed 16 lbs. and when pounded up yielded eight pounds of gold. On the Saturday previous, this claim had been abandoned in disgust, by two men who had worked in it all winter.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 3/30/1867, p. 198

From the Herald of March 23d: The crushing last week at the Harpending mine yielded 500 ounces of amalgam. Prof. Silliman is now on a visit to this mine. . . . The Ambruster claim, located on Georgia Hill, near Yankee Jim, was sold on "Wednesday last to Dr. E. B. Harris for \$10,000. McBride & Co. who found the 16-pound chunk at Bird's Valley, mentioned in our last, found also another of 23 pounds. The Stars and Stripes says the yield of the first was over \$1,000, when pounded up; the value of the other is not yet known.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 4/13/1867, p. 230

From the Stars and Stripes of April 3d: The Golden Gate adjoins the Dewey claim, at Bath, and is owned by Henry Ford, John D. Jones, and three brothers named Willetts. Unlike the Dewey, the Golden Gate is a bedrock claim. The company have a convenient mill near the mouth of their tunnel which runs five stamps and works night and day. The Golden Gate employs about 15 men, and regularly nets to its owners from \$250 to \$300 each, per month. The tunnel is about 1,100 ft

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 4/20/1867, p. 246

The Golden Rule Co., near Horse Shoe Bar, have decided to erect a 20-stamp mill. They have been hauling their rock three miles to Stewart's Flat mill with 275 inches of water and three men, \$1,600.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 5/4/1867, p. 278

A letter from Forest Hill to the Dutch Flat Enquirer, says there are 10 cement mills at work within a circle of three miles radius, of which that place is the center.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 5/11/1867, p. 294

From the Herald of May 4th: No crushing will be done for some weeks in the Harpending mine, as the mill is to be removed to a more eligible position lower down the hill.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 5/18/1867, p. 310

A nugget of solid gold, weighing 36 ozs., was taken out of the claim of two Germans, Joe and Chris., between the north and south forks of Weber creek.

From the Stars and Stripes of May 8th: The 10-stamp mill at the Rough & Ready claim, has been moved to Smith's Point and rebuilt. The Oro mill and mine are ready to go into operation.

There are 26 ditches in the county, supplying the mines with water, which originally cost \$1,628,000.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 5/25/1867, p. 326

From the Placer Herald of May 18th: The Last Chance Co., owned by Lawler, Tyler & Co., struck it rich last week, almost as much so as the Green Emigrant. The owners believe they have a fortune. The Savage and Mexico Quartz Co's, who combined to sink a shaft on the division line, at the depth of 12 ft, struck a ledge 2 1-2 ft. thick.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 6/1/1867, p. 342

From the Auburn Stars and Stripes of May 22 : The Green Emigrant is constantly improving. The company have been much interrupted for want of water. They have not yet made a clean-up.

Mr. Linn has commenced operations on the Westchester mill. Claims on Bushy Canon are looking up in the market. Mr. Francis Clark, Supt. of a Washoe and San Francisco Co., has been prospecting between Michigan Bluff and the Middle Fork, near American Bar. Several ledges have been opened and satisfactorily tested. He will erect a 10-stamp mill.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 6/8/1867, p. 358

The old Dewey claim, owned by Breece, Wheeler & Co. is considered the best cement claim in the county. The company could any day take \$100,000 for it. They have a tunnel in a distance of 1,400 ft. There is enough pay cement in sight to keep the mill running three or four years. The owners have monthly dividends which are very handsome, sufficient to make one wish he had an interest in "Old Dewey."

The Green Emigrant ledge has been sold to parties in San Francisco for \$60,000.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 14, 6/15/1867, p. 374

Auburn Stars and Stripes, June 5th: The work on the Washoe claims is being done midway between Bath and Michigan Bluffs, directly opposite Mt. Gregory. These ledges are four ft. thick, all have been prospected quite extensively, and in no case has a less yield than \$28 per ton been realized. The narrowest ledge is 3% ft. thick. By working test, the rock from this ledge yields \$300 per ton. Several lumps crushed in a hand mortar, and washed with great care, yielded extremely rich prospects.

Five tons of quartz taken from a vein running through Yankee Jim, was crushed last week, and yielded a sufficient amount per ton to warrant the further development of the vein, which is eight ft. wide (carrying gold bearing sulphurets) , in a good locality for cheap and permanent working.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 7/6/1867, p. 6

Mountain Democrat, June 29th: The Eureka mine has contributed a number of remarkably rich specimens of gold bearing quartz. The specimens were taken from the vein at a depth of 130 ft. Gold is profusely scattered through the rock.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 7/13/1867, p. 22

Herald, July 6th: Last Chance quartz claim, on Rock Creek, owned by Lawler & Co., is now prospected to the depth of 16 ft. and shows well in free gold. The owners are greatly encouraged and intend to prosecute their work with vigor.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 7/27/1867, p.54

The yield of the Schnable mine is \$6 per ton, and the expenses \$4. A level has been run 1,200 ft. on the vein, 50 ft. below the surface in pay rock all the way.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 9/14/1867, p. 166

Alta, Sept. 11th: The Missouri Tunnel Co's gravel mill at Yankee Jims, was destroyed by fire on Saturday night. Cause of fire unknown. The loss is estimated from \$12,000 to \$15,000. No insurance.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 9/28/1867, p. 198

The Alia says it is reported that the Paragon cement mine, at Bath, Placer county, has been sold to a San Francisco company for \$150,000.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 10/26/1867, p. 262

Stars and Stripes, Oct. 16th: It is rumored that the title to the Good Friday claim will probably be the subject of litigation at the next term of Court. In this claim there is a thread of quartz about two inches wide, which is very nearly half gold. In one week the two gentlemen who are in possession took out about \$5,600. Those who contest their claim do so under a copper mining location, they claiming that the location for copper mining holds for gold as well.

A miners' meeting was held in Auburn on the 12th of October, having in view the designating of mineral lands in that vicinity, and of remonstrating against the patenting of such lands.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 15, 11/2/1867, p.278

-Dutch Flat Enquirer, Oct. 26th: The Iowa Hill correspondent writes :

A little further up we saw Keeffe opening the old Baltimore tunnel for the purpose of working old ground.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 16, 4/4/1868, p. 214

Shirt Tail Canon, so famed in early days for its richness, but lying idle for the past 10 years, (although held by a party of 12 men), is likely soon to yield up its treasures quite equal to former times. The canon is over 20,000 ft. long, and has been the receptacle for all the tailings from the richest hills in Placer county during all this time,—the washings from Brushy Canon, Yankee Jims, Iowa Hill, Wisconsin and Smith's Hill, together with all the mines on that side of the Divide emptying into it, for a distance of 15 or 20 miles,—the result is that the tailings are now from 10 to 50 ft. deep, all of which are thoroughly impregnated with quicksilver, carrying more or less gold, and all ready for working, while all the water needed runs through the canon after leaving the other claims. Thus water and quicksilver are free to work with, while for all time to come the mines above are furnishing material that must pay as long as the mines are worked.

Recently Mr. D. M. Hosmer, in connection with a few other gentlemen, have purchased the remaining interest and are about commencing to flume the canon and wash all the dirt. They are commencing about a mile below the head, while preparing an immense flume at the foot of the canon, where there is a fall of some 60 ft, with a good fall all the way up. Competent judges think that the claim will pay an average of at least \$10 per day to the hand, and as the company will put on 50 men, as soon as the water permits, if the above initial estimate is correct, they will realize at least \$150,000 the coming year. There is no doubt but that the claim is among the richest gravel tailing claims in the State.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 16, 4/18/1868, p. 246

Grass Valley National, April 4th: Cement claims in some portion of Placer County are seemingly in a depressed condition. Out of the four mills erected between Todd's Valley and Yankee Jim's, not one is now running. Of the three at Bath, but one has been running regularly.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 17, 12/12/1868, p. 374

Grass Valley National, Dec. 5th: The Fortuna mine is located near Yankee Jim's, Placer County. The ledge will average four ft. in thickness. A tunnel has been run 100 ft. on the ledge, and a shaft sunk 30 ft. in depth. The surface rock has yielded \$10 per ton, exclusive of the sulphurets. There is an abundance of water and timber at hand, and rock can be taken out and milled at an expense not to exceed \$5 per ton. Over 250 tons have been already taken out. John Phillips, one

of the owners, brought up some of the sulphurets for assay. They were worked at Oscar Maltmau's works on the Nevada road and yielded at the rate of \$165 to the ton. The sulphurets were not well cleaned, containing nearly 40 per cent, of sand, and it is expected that the clear article will be worth at least \$240 per ton.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 18, 1/16/1869, p. 38

Auburn Herald, Jan. 9th, From the Forest Hill Divide, we learn that the snow has gone off with a rain, and that the ditches are all full, the miners are abundantly supplied with water, and good times generally about to commence in that section of the county.

Mining and Scientific Press, V. 18, 2/27/1869, p.134 *Wrong Jenny Lind*

Auburn Stars and Stripes, Feb. 18th: W. H. Puffer informs us that a crushing of about 60 tons of rock from the Jenny Lind ledge, just made, yielded in free gold \$30 per ton. It is estimated that the sulphurets will pay \$500 per ton. This ledge is situated on Dutch Ravine, about one mile below Newcastle. It is believed that there are many ledges in the vicinity of Newcastle that will pay equally well.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 18, 5/1/1869, p. 278

Stars and Stripes. April 22d: A boy, while playing on the bank of Auburn ravine, near Steinley's brewery, last Monday, picked up a piece of gold worth \$5.75. The late rains have laid bare the bedrock in many places.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 19, 7/3/1869, p. 6

Damascus. — Correspondence of Stars and Stripes, 24th: "Last week the Mountain Gate Co. got through with their tunnel and raised their shaft to gravel. This is the most extensive tunnel in Placer County, being over 3,000 feet in length, and has token much money and many years' labor. It taps a claim of great extent.

Robert Lewis has got a splendid prospect in the Mill claim, and it is likely to prove one of the best in Placer County.

Charley Cook has made a clean up and harvested a splendid lot of gold. Billy Cameron is doing pretty well in the Big Gun claim, and times are quite lively."

Mining and Scientific Press, V 19, 7/10/1869, p. 22

Letter to Butte Record of July 3d: At Damascus there are several companies just striking through to pay dirt, and everything is lively. The Mountain Gate claim has, through the labor of five or six men, yielded for the last four years more than the expenses of 30 men engaged in opening out a drift through another part of the claim. They have now finished the worst part of the job, having two tunnels of thirty-odd hundred feet run into the mountain side.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 19, 7/24/1869, p. 55

Mills and Smelting Works.—John Tregloan has gone to Forest Hill, Placer County, Cal., to pack up and ship for White Pine a 10-stamp mill, of which he is part owner there

Mining and Scientific Press, V 19, 8/28/1869, p. 134

Rich Ore.—Herald, 21st: W. G. Green left in this office, last Saturday a specimen of gold bearing quartz, thickly studded with pure bright quartz. It came from his mine, a mile or two west of town.

Mining and Scientific Press, V 19, 10/30/1869, p. 278

Evening Star.—Auburn Herald, 23d: Wm. Quick, one of the owners of this mine brought to this office a piece of blue quartz, or yellow gold (there is some doubt which predominates, the gold or quartz) which weighed nine pounds, avoirdupois, and excels anything ever seen in this county for beauty and richness. This nugget was taken from the bottom of a 60-ft. shaft, and bears every indication of coming from below water level. We learn that they have another specimen almost as rich, at the mouth of the shaft, that it takes a good man to lift. This claim has paid from the top down, ranging, on the mill rock, from \$50 to \$250 to the ton.