NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor
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GOLD

We've been hearing a lot about Gold this month. USA brought home 9 gold medals from South Korea 2018 Olympics. Northville was excited back in 1880 when the first claim of GOLD was made to the state of New York by Andrew J. Perkins. His second Claim in 1881. (see page 3)

Johnstown Daily Republican

It was currently reported on our streets today that the Northville gold mine was in full blast, and that gold was panning out at the rate of eight or ten dollars to the ton of dirt and sand. Well, we only hope it is so, and in time Dominie Dayton will be as happy as gold can make a man happy.

Another shipment of machinery for the Northville gold mine was made yesterday from the F. J. & G. foundry.

James Burns is in Northville superintending the placing in position of some new machinery in the Northville gold mine, which has been made at the Gloversville foundry and machine shop here. It is understood that preparations are being made to carry on the work of

Amsterdam Sentinel

The new machinery for the Northville gold mine arrived safely last week and is now in position. Parties interested in the mines anticipate great developments within a few days, after careful tests have been made.

On Feb. 25, 1898

The Daily Leader of Gloversville reported work on the Jackson gold mine in Mayfield continued day and night. On March 9, 1898, the Johnstown Daily Republican noted two experienced gold miners had arrived. On April 14, 1898, the Republican stated, "Operations at the Jackson Summit gold mine have been suspended. It is reported that indications were very favorable toward striking pay dirt."

The Daily Gazette
By Bob Cudmore

In 1984 Fulton County Historian, Lewis Decker found two flakes of gold while panning in an undisclosed Fulton County creek. Decker donated the flakes to the state Museum in Albany. According to The Daily Gazette, a museum official said the discovery was only the second verified gold find in the Adirondacks.

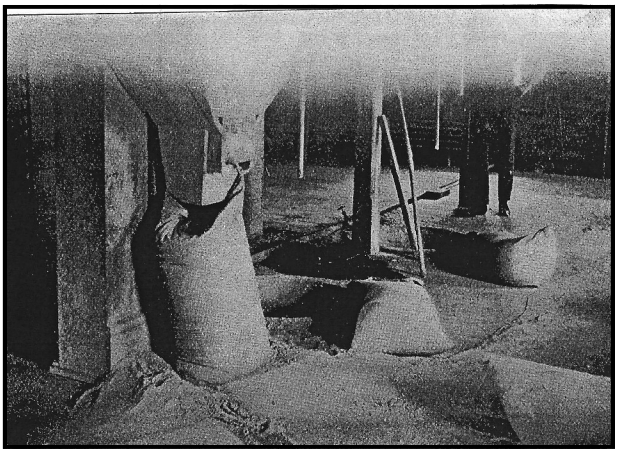
According to NYS law, all gold or silver found in NYS belongs to the state of New York.

There was a gold mining operation on Jackson Summit in Mayfield in the late 1800s. There were mines in Bleecker, Caroga Lake and Benson near the Northville to Lake Placid Trail. There even was a claim in 1896 that gold had been found in the Cayadutta Creek in Gloversville

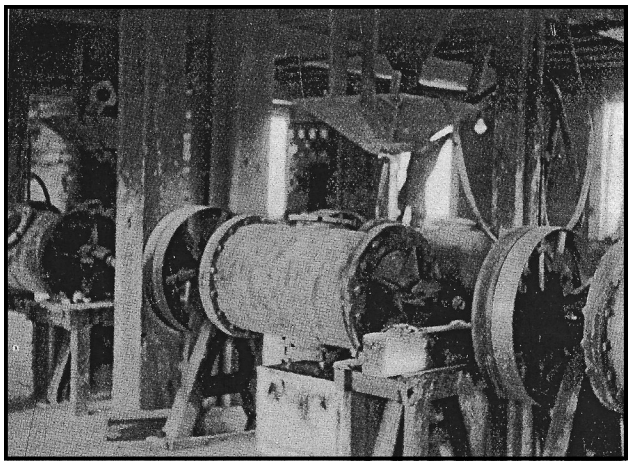
Location of the Gold Mine

According to the information I've found, the mine "Howe" mill aka The Gold Mill & Mining Co. was one mile south of Northville. In the January 10, 1888 issue of the Saratogian it stated that The Howe Mill and separator located one mile south of Northville on the farm formerly occupied by Hon. Warner Miller is running full blast and turning out about $9 per ton from the sand found on the east side of the highway. The apparatus is being improved from time to time by Messrs. Bellows and Howe.

Ethel Wilbur Edwards (Priscilla Edward's mother in law) remembered that in 1920 a firm from New York City moved some machinery to the Jerome Corey river flats south of Sacandaga Park. The soil from these flats were put through sieves, bagged, and shipped by way of the F. J. and G. R. R. She remember seeing bags of sand piled on the river bank after the work was abandoned.



Bags of sand ready to be mixed with chemicals before the gold is separated with an amalgamator from the sand.



Sutfhen Amalgamator

Over four thousand gold claims have been officially recorded in New York State, most of them in the Adirondacks, but although small traces of gold have been found, none of them have paid. The Adirondacks are being continually prospected by amateurs and reports of rich finds are frequent .I'm afraid that Northville's gold mine is one of the unsuccessful adventures of gold mining in the Adirondacks. There's no evidence that the gold mine produced enough gold to be profitable

The process of extracting gold from the sand, consists of a rotating drum in which steel balls and ore are placed. As the drum rotates, the balls grind the ore to a fine state. Mercury is introduced, and combines chemically with the gold, (amalgamates) and the liquid is easily separated from the ore.

The amalgam is then heated slowly in a still, to around 1500 degrees until the mercury vaporizes and is then condensed and re-used, leaving the pure gold. This is dangerous since mercury fumes can be inhaled causing derangement and/or death. Modern safer processes use materials such as Borax and Cornstarch.

To The Secretary of the State of New York:

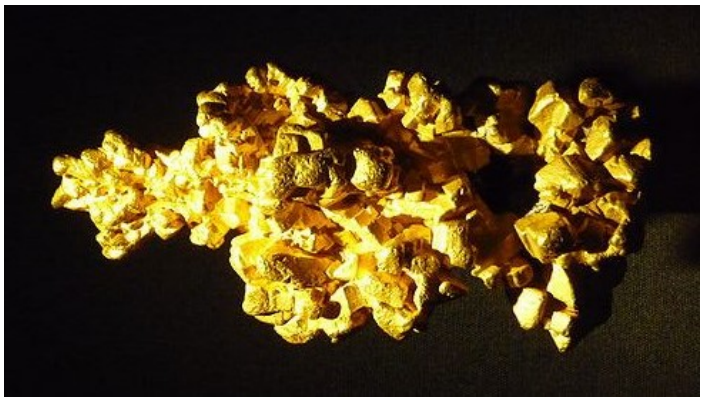
We the undersigned claim to be the first discoverers of a gold and Silver mine situate in the town of Northampton Fulton County N.Y. and on a farm own by Stephen Ayers of Gloversville in said county and now occupied by Lewis Miller discribed as follows, From the mouth of the pit in the claim heretofore entered by A. J. Perkins (last fall) in a northerly direction twenty five rods thence easterly to the public highway thence Southerly along said highway to a line running westerly parellel with the claim of Van-dyke and Cole to the fence on the west line of of said Ayers farm thence northerly along said line fence about ninety rods, thence easterly to the line twenty five rods north of said pit. This claim takes in and covers the claim entered last fall by the said A. J. Perkins

Dated October 31st 1881.

Andrew J. Perkins

Unfortunately I have not been able to find the exact location of the mine except that it was about 1 mile south of Northville. One article mentioned that F .J. & G. owned the property where the mine was. I can't verify that, but the F. J. & G did own a piece of land on the East side of the river at the left side of the 'Gold' oval I put in the adjoining map. Ethel W. Edwards remembered that the bags of sand she saw was behind Vic's Tavern along the river, which puts it just about where the oval is on the map.

The claim letter to the State of NY (Pg 3) mentioned it was located on Stephen Ayers farm which was occupied by Lewis Miller. The Northern claim border was about 412 ft North of the pit, and the Southern border was about 1073 ft South of the pit. The claim bordered the Public Highway (Skiff road to Fishhouse) on the East side. It bordered the lands of Van Dyke and Cole on the South. The map on the right is an 1868 map, a later map might show who owned land in 1881. Machinery was moved into Corey flats later. There are Corey properties at the bottom of this map.



A Gold Nugget

GOLD FOUND ON PROPECT HILL IN NORTHVILLE, NY

Now before anyone heads up Northville hill with a pickaxe and shovel, you better read the following.

A short distance north of the old baseball diamond on Prospect Hill the debris-filled shaft of Northville's one and only gold mine can still be seen. (*date unknown*) The horizontal hole, extending some twenty feet into the rock ledge was excavated by prospectors in their search for gold.

After announcing a fabulous strike they had no difficulty in raising ample funds from the inhabitants of the village. It was only after they had disappeared with the money that the hard and bitter truth came out. The mine had been cleverly salted with real gold. "Bargain Bulletin" date and author unknown

(Above article found in the archives of the historian)