

SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S NEW ALMADEN QUICKSILVER MINE

BY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. ANDRES CASTILLERO
- III. BARRON, FORBES & COMPANY
- IV. QUICKSILVER MINING COMPANY
- V. PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S INVOLVEMENT IN NEW ALMADEN
- VI. MINING OPERATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIONS
- VII. QUICKSILVER PRODUCTION AND MANUFACTURE
- VIII. STRIKES
- VIX. THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF THE MINERS
- X. NEW ALMADEN SETTLEMENTS, AND TOWNS
- XI. TRANSPORTATION
- XII. CONCLUSION
- XIII. APPENDIX A
- XIV. APPENDIX B
- XV. APPENDIX C
- XVI. APPENDIX D
- XVII. APPENDIX E
- XVIII. APPENDIX F
- XIX. APPENDIX G

I. INTRODUCTION

Andres Castellero, a Mexican cavalry officer, came to New Almaden in 1845, however within a few months he returned to Mexico to seek financial assistance. The Ohlone Indians introduced Castellero to the source of the red ore, or cinnabar which is the source of quicksilver, later he filed a claim with Mexico and was granted title to the mineral deposit. The mine site was located at the boundaries of Rancho San Vincente, granted to Jose Reyes Berryessa. Andres Castellero camped near the Los Alamitos Creek. At that time war between the United States and Mexico was threatening, so Andres Castellero never returned to New Almaden.

When gold was discovered at Sutter's fort in 1848, the mines provided a ready supply of cheap quicksilver essential in the processing of gold ore. Quicksilver was necessary for the processing gold. This process was called amalgamation because quicksilver separated gold from other minerals. Later on, cyanide was used for processing gold. New Almaden ended the Spanish monopoly on mercury and expanding California's production of gold.

In 1846, the firm of Barron, Forbes Company acquired the shares of Castellero, securing a majority ownership. Meanwhile, the minority ownership had taken charge of the operation and challenged the legality of the Barron, Forbes Company, which was refuted based on the boundaries of the

mining grant. The Barron, Forbes Company evicted the minority ownership and began developing a company town later known as the "Hacienda de Beneficio," or reduction works. This area would later be known as the "Hacienda" and the mines were named the New Almaden Mines after the world renown Almaden Mines of Spain. The Hacienda, known today as New Almaden, included the Casa Grande, built by Francis Meyers in 1854 and was the official residence of the mine manager. Today, the Casa Grande is a recreational facility known as Club Almaden.

In 1854 thirteen furnaces were in continuous operation and in 1857, the New Tunnel was constructed under the direction of the superintendent and surveyor, Sherman Day Spanishtown. Spanishtown, with mostly a Mexican population, was the largest of the mining settlements.

When California became a state, in 1849, all Mexican land grantees were required to file a claim with the U.S. Government. The Barron, Forbes Company filed a claim in 1852 to establish the legality of the Castellero claim. The documents were found in sufficient order and a legal battle ensued which would carry on for twelve years, involving Barron, Forbes and Company, Quicksilver Mining Company, and the United States Government ending with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling against Barron, Forbes Company. In 1862, President Lincoln signed an order to evict the Barron, Forbes Company. Under public pressure, Lincoln withdrew the eviction order in 1864 the Barron Forbes Company

relinquished its ownership of the 8,580 acres to the Quicksilver Mining Company for \$1.75 million.

Samuel Butterworth, President of the Quicksilver Mining Company, assumed management of the mines in 1864. He was determined to increase the production of the mines and improve the general welfare of the mining community. During Butterworth's tenure a company store and a schoolhouse were built on Mine Hill, a tramway system to transport ore was constructed, and rules were established to govern working and living conditions. In 1865, there were seven hundred buildings, associated with the mine, with 1,800 people living on Mine Hill. The 1860s brought an influx of Cornish miners who established the settlement of Englishtown on Mine Hill. The town was characterized by neat white wooden houses with white picket fences. The town included a schoolhouse, boarding house, a community center, and a Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1870, Butterworth resigned and was replaced by James B. Randol. Under Randol, the mines reached their peak of development. In 1871, Randol initiated the construction of a new shaft for deeper exploration known as the Randol shaft, operated through 1896 and would become the richest of the mines, producing \$10 million in quicksilver. A new entry for the shaft, the Santa Isabel, was created in 1877 and accommodated three hoisting compartments reaching a depth of 2,300 feet. By 1874, five new furnaces had been installed, processing 145 tons of ore a day. The Buena

Vista Shaft was developed with massive granite block foundations to hold a large pump engine. Randol also improved the health welfare system in 1871 by establishing a Miners Fund health plan to finance a resident camp doctor. When Randol retired in 1892, Robert Bulmore was appointed Mine Manager, a position he held until 1899. With the closing of the mine operations on Mine Hill in 1912, Englishtown and Spanishtown became deserted.

Upon the decline of the Mine Hill operations, attention was directed to the Senator Mine where a new shaft was constructed in 1909. By 1912, operations at New Almaden Mine were limited to working the mine and furnace yard tailings, and the Hacienda furnace yard was stripped. In 1915, mining facilities at the Senator Mine were expanded to include a reduction plant. In 1927 exploration for more quicksilver deposits had failed and the New Almaden Corporation was declared bankrupt. Parts of the furnaces still remain at Senator Mine.¹

The purpose of this paper is to examine the scope and significance of mining operations and the social impacts there of upon the lives of New Almaden miners. The limitations of this paper are that are no survivors from New Almaden's heyday from 1846 to 1927 to interview.

II. Andres Castillero

The first mining enterprise at New Almaden involved Andres Castillero. In 1845, Andres Castillero, a captain in the Mexican military reached Mission Santa Clara to visit

the region of upper California, Castellero had a working knowledge of meturllurgy. Castellero was sent to California to buy out Johanna August Sutter, and to disperse the Americans at New Helvetia.² The negotiations came to nothing because Castellero required the Mexican government expel Captain Sutter. Castellero came to Mission Santa Clara where he was received by Father Jose Maria de Real. Castellero tested the red rock found at the mission that came from New Almaden and was used to as construction materials for the Mission. The Mexican government gave him \$100,000.00 for the extraction of the minerals.³ Castellero extracted the quicksilver, or mercury through a process called distillation. He crushed the ore, threw it on live coals, took a cup of water and threw it on the coals. He turned the cup upside down to collect the vapor and there was tiny pieces of quicksilver attached to the cup. Castellero filed a claim with the alcade of the Pueblo of San Jose de Guadalupe.⁴

Under Castellero's guidance and supervision of the mining operations, 3,000 pounds of ore was extracted. Moreover, because of a lack of financial backing Castellero was forced to quit the mine.⁵ Castellero went back to Mexico City where he requested government loan of five thousand dollars to cover the cost of developing the mine.⁶

III. Barron, Forbes & Company

In 1846, Castellero obtained for financial support from Barron, Forbes and Company, an English banking firm.

Castillero sold four of his twelve shares to Barron, Forbes and Company and turned over his legal papers to the above mentioned company. The Barron, Forbes, and Company took out a sixteen year lease on the mine. The mine was incorporated under Mexican land laws. In 1847, Alexander Forbes of Barron, Forbes and Company came to New Almaden from Mexico with a great many workers and equipment. On the banks of Los Alamitos Creek, at the entrance to the mine property, structures were built to serve as the living quarters for workers and became the site for furnace operations, this first settlement was called the "Hacienda" derived from Spanish meaning reduction works.

Under the supervision of Henry Halleck, superintendent of Barron, Forbes and Company the development of quicksilver achieved considerable momentum. There was a continuous investment in property and development work. The furnaces yielded an average of 36% quicksilver. The daily operations of the mine progressed favorably, in spite of inadequate facilities and poor methods. The crudely built facilities were producing an average of 100 to 140 pounds of quicksilver.⁷ In 1851, five furnaces and condensers had been built with no less than 5,000,000 pounds of cinnabar ore being processed to produce 20,000 flasks of mercury.⁸ In 1864 with the break up of the mining interest in New Almaden, Barron, Forbes and Company returned to Mexico. After the Mexican-American war in 1848, the mine was subject to United States law.

IV. Quicksilver Mining Company

Quicksilver Mining Company took over operations when Barron, Forbes and Company quit mining operations. The viability of the mine in 1864, and wealth of the mine caused a series of lawsuits regarding the mine's ownership. Litigation over the New Almaden mine dragged on for twelve years. This uncertainty affected production, and for two years no mining took place at all. The Supreme Court decided against the Barron, Forbes, and Company, ending their interest in the mine. The Quicksilver mining company was incorporated over the assets of the liquidated Barron, Forbes, and Company.⁹

James Randol was sent to New Almaden with approximately two hundred thousand dollars raised for selling preferred stock by subscription in the eastern United States. Butterworth's position authorized him to make all purchases for the operation of the mines, to receive and regulate their products, to have full authority over all employees, and to make all the necessary accommodation for the procurement of the business.¹⁰

As general manager in charge of mining operations, Butterworth achieved prosperity and secured a fortune for the Quicksilver Mining Company of Pennsylvania. This was a joint stock company with the majority of the stock held in the eastern United States. The company's shares were on a regular list of the New York Stock Exchange. The Quicksilver Mining Company originally chartered and

incorporated by the state of Pennsylvania in 1863 was later deeded to the state of New York on April 10, 1866.

According to the charter and by-laws the capital stock was estimated at ten million dollars. A board of directors was selected. Eleven directors, ten resided in New York.

Butterworth's tenure was to last from 1864 to 1870.

During Butterworth's tenure there was a sizable amount of disorder in the mining community with a reported a high amount of theft. In the late 1860s, the quality of the ore had continuously decreased and the production of quicksilver had dropped from 25,628 flasks in 1868 to 16,989 in 1869, although the price had remained at forty-five dollars and ninety cents per flask. The reported worth of New Almaden quicksilver had gone down from \$1,176,325 to \$775,618.¹¹ Samuel Butterworth was notified by the New York office to cut expenses. He noted that he had already lowered the wages of the officers and foremen of the mine. Butterworth proposed that the Hacienda be closed or leased . He was willing to take a pay cut to \$10,000 from his salary of \$25,000.00 per year. Butterworth put in his resignation in 1870. He recommended James B. Randol, his nephew and secretary of the company for seven years, to be his successor

James B. Randol became the newly appointed manager of New Almaden with an annual salary of \$12,000.00. He spent about a month becoming familiar with life at the mine.¹² Mining operations at New Almaden underwent significant

changes during the tenure of Randol. New equipment, inventions, improvement of existing machinery and development of new prospecting methods achieved higher profits for the Quicksilver Mining Company. Randol wrote to mining experts in other countries for advice. Maintained in Randol's report were statistics gathered from quicksilver mines in Europe, South America, and other California mines.¹³

By 1886, in nine shafts, six had been explored which were in operation; there was a network of tunnel approximately 50 miles in length; actual mining work was carried on to a depth of 2,300 feet, while the machinery was the most up to date in the world. From 1860 to 1886 318,000 flasks of the quicksilver flasks had processed, yielding a total profit of \$4,000,000.00 As a result, debts were paid and a significant amount was spent on permanent improvements and over one million dollars were declared in dividends.¹⁴ By 1892, quicksilver yields amounted to 13,000 flasks a year. The mine was unable to secure workers at low wages. Even though the mine was profitable workers were exploited and paid such low wages. This contributed to the end of the Randol administration. Randol tendered his resignation after having chosen F. Von Leicht as his replacement who also later resigned.

By 1899, ore production was down. Downsizing measures including laying-off workers, were implemented The position of general agent done away with, ending the career of Robert

Bulmore. By the end of 1912, the mine could no longer operate profitably and after incurring large losses the company declared bankruptcy.¹⁵

V. President Lincoln's Involvement in New Almaden

During the Civil War, president Abraham Lincoln's supporters suggested that he claim the New Almaden Mine as United States property. Both the North and the South wanted quicksilver for its properties conducive to the manufacture of explosives and its properties used for the extraction of gold. Lincoln state his reluctance concerning the situation with the New Almaden mine. Lincoln admitted that the owners of the New Almaden Mine were the legal owners of it based on the Mexican grant. Lincoln did not feel that the mine had been acquired surreptitiously by the United States Government.

Leonard Ascher cites that the main opposition to the grant did not come from the United States Government, but from the Quicksilver Mining Company. He suggests that the Quicksilver Mining Company used public servants of the Federal Government to achieve their goals and he further suggests that bribery took place although it cannot be proven.⁹

VI. Mining Operations, and Administrations

In 1847, Alexander Forbes of Barron, Forbes and Company arrived at New Almaden from Mexico. The first miners in California were Mexicans. Hittel cites that a large number

of miners were from Sonora Mexico. These Mexicans had acquired their skills in the mines of northern Mexico. They were the teachers of the first miners in California.¹⁷ Barron, Forbes, and Company took out a lease to the mine. Soon after James Alexander Forbes paid a visit to his partners in Mexico, he retained a power of attorney authorizing him to direct operations at the mine, on August 10, 1849.¹⁸ The Barron, Forbes and Company hired Dr. James Tobin as the mining manger. In 1853, \$1,000,00 was invested in the company, it was widely believed that the plant was the most productive in the world.

In 1866, Cornish miners experienced economic hard times in Cornwall, England, migrated to the United States to work in the mining industry. An estimated 5,000 miners left Cornwall. When James Randol assumed the managerial duties at New Almaden, he secured the employment of a substantial number of Cornish miners.¹⁹ In 1866, 477 employees of mixed origin worked at New Almaden mine including, Mexican, Chilean, English, American, Swedes, Norwegians, Dutch, German, Austrian, Canadian, and Irish miners.²⁰

Although quicksilver mining was a profitable enterprise, it was extremely hazardous work. Many people were killed from cave-ins. The miners didn't have safety equipment. Just to go to work in the morning, the miners had to free fall vertically 200 feet and work in ten hour shifts. They took two candles. After the first candle

burned out, it was lunch time. When the second candle burned out it was quitting time.²¹

One of the hazards connected with the New Almaden mine is the effect produced by the mercurial vapors on the surrounding vegetation. Every tree near the area where the mercury was processed died. Cattle within one mile of the mine also succumbed to the mercury vapors sickened and died. At the production works, men working around the furnaces were subjected to the poisonous fumes. Furnance workers staggered their hours working one week in four allowing themselves to recover from the fumes.²²

VII. Quicksilver Production and Manufacture

Mine Hill was located some 300 feet from the main tunnel and extended a distance of 807 feet. The main tunnel was constructed with an arched tunnel, 10 feet in height with heavy redwood timbers spaced two feet apart to support the walls. The width was adequate to accommodate a double track system for loading and emptying ore cars. A long open shed was constructed which was called the "planilla". Here the ore cases were unloaded and crews of laborers would break the ore to a specified size and segregate according to its value. In this grading process, the ore was placed in one of three groups referred to as *gruessa*, *granza*, and *tierra*. The *gruessa* the highest grade or purest quality; the *granza* was good ore but contained other rocks; the *tierra* was an interior quality usually found in debris or refuse earth. Because of its fineness, the *tierra* was

moistened and made into brick forms and laid out for sun drying. Thousands of tierra bricks were stacked at the reduction works.

A distinctive feature of the mine was the *escalera*, or ladder consisting of a notched stick of timber some twelve feet in length. Wachs stated that the Mexican miners carried a calf-skin bag on their back with up to 200 pounds of mercury ore.²³ About 300 miners were employed in the mine. The organization of the mine included a hierarchy. The *epressarios* or bosses hired workers at very low wages. The laborers in the mine, *barateros*, were above the *tanateros* or ore carriers. The *tantateros* were muscular because they engaged in heavy physical labor.²⁴

The miners have their own local rules and regulations, which were strictly observed among themselves and recognized by the officers of the company. They were paid by the amount of ore they extracted from the mine. Essentially, miners were governed by as much or as little ore they extracted. Each day's work was carefully noted and separated into different piles. The more ore they extracted, the more money they could make. The work was carried out by gangs from five to a dozen, according to the size of the shaft which was worked. The miners averaged \$30.00 to \$50.00 a week. Among the miners, an individual was selected to collect the other miners' wages.

When Randol assumed mining operations in New Almaden, he proceeded with a specific classification of workers, men

working by the month, by the day, and on contract. Those who worked by the month consisted of officers of the company, mechanics, engine drivers and other skilled branches or work including bookkeepers and accountants. Day labor included the work about the furnace, landings and shafts, workers on the road, and sorters of the ore.

In 1889, the mode of payment for both trammers and skip-fillers was changed to daily wages. The wage scale for Quicksilver Mining Company were as follows: monthly rate for Mine Hill employees for machinist was \$100; machinist helper \$60-\$70, engine drivers, \$70-\$80; firemen, \$40-\$60; blacksmith \$45-\$60, blacksmith helper \$30-\$35, pumpmen, \$70-\$90; shiftmen, \$70 90, blasters \$71. The daily wages for boiler makers was \$2.00; carpenters \$3.00, surface laborers, \$1.50 - \$2.00; ore cleaners, \$1.75 -\$2.00, laborers, \$2.00; trammers \$1.75 -\$2.00; skip filler \$2.00; bogs, \$1.00-\$1.50.²⁵

VIII. Strikes

Under the Butterworth administration, there was a strike. Strike organizer, Jose Antonio Garner was released from his duties when some concessions were made to workers one year later on January 30, 1866. There were strikes in 1865, 1866, and 1868, miners ceased from working insisting on better wages which the Butterworth Mining Company denied. Miners returned to work in absence of any concessions negotiated. Miners striked in April of 1868. The superintendent eventually gave in to the miners' requests.

Approximately 300 men had been on strike. They demanded a daily wage of \$3.00 per day and those men who had refused to strike were tied on the backs of mules and pelted with rocks. James Randol and the New Almaden mines were threatened by another strike.

In comparison with other mines and industries, Sneider states that Randol believed he was paying the miners less than any other site in the west coast. Randol was able to make a profit because he cancelled the debt held over by the previous administration. In order to be more profitable, Randol was faced with recruiting miners to work at the New Almaden Mine at low wages. Into the 1880s, there was a shortage of qualified miners to work at New Almaden. Randol advertised for miners in mining publications in Pennsylvania, Colorado, Lake Superior and other mining regions. Randol placed miners in harms way jeopardizing their safety for greater profit. Randol's chief of mining operations indicated that Randol was trying to economize in all departments as necessary but at the same time determined that it was dangerous to permit the mine to become rundown.

VIII. The Everyday Life of the Miners

In 1887, Denis Kearney, leader of the (WPC) Workingmen's Party of California, tried to have the vote of the Almaden precinct thrown out for the Presidential election of that year. According to Henry Tregoning, 99 percent of the English voted Republican. He also cites that the Mexicans

also voted Republican. Tregoning indicated that he paid \$5.00 a month for a house. He felt that he was well fed and well housed. Of a total of 58 miners, 55 voted Republican and three voted Democrat. The account of miner Charles Parr cites that there used to be many saloons, gambling and prostitution houses which were done away with in the 1860s.. Parr indicated that the doing away of gambling houses and drinking saloons caused employees to save their money to a greater extent. The testimony of James Harry indicated that he was born in England in the County of Cornwall. He came to the United States in 1869. He had been a miner since he was seventeen years old. He mined in Cornwall, England, and in the state of California, in Nevada County, and Santa Clara Counties and lived in Almaden since 1871.²⁶

According to mine captain James Harry, the duties of mine captain were to take orders from the Superintendent. Captain James Harry supervised 350 men. He carried out the underground work of running drifts, sinking shafts, and raising and sinking winzes, a mining apparatus, and ensured that mines were timbered well-ventilated and maintained the safety of the miners in regard to timbering and extracted the ore in the cheapest way.

Social assistance was provided for needy miners by the Miners Fund, a social organization. Through the auspices of the Miner's Fund, a social club called the "Helping Hand" was founded. To qualify as members, miners paid \$1.00 a month to the Miners Fund. This entitled them to all club

privileges such as; playing games, reading and drinking a cup of tea, coffee, or chocolate served with cake. No gambling or drinking was allowed. No talking or smoking was allowed in the reading room. The library consisted of about 450 volumes.²⁷

W. S. Thorne's account, stated that he worked as the mining company's physician since 1869. When he first came to the mine in 1850, he observed there were 1,500 and 1,800 people working at the mine. Dr. Thorne commented that the social condition of the mine was bad. The general reputation of the people at New Almaden was bad. New Almaden because it was remote was a haven for the criminal element to hide out from the law. According to Thorne's account, many miners died for from lack of medical care. After Mr. Randol became manager her hire a doctor. The mining company charged each family a fee of \$1.00 per month for the employee and his family.²⁸

Dr. S.E. Winn noted, his position was paid out of the Miners Fund. As a physician, he was required to reside at the mine. The mining company spent a fair amount of the salary of physicians, \$60,911 and \$15,820.39 on medicine, contributions to the sick and disabled was \$4,812.85. Dr. Winn cited that in the English Camp, the majority of the houses were owned by the employees. As for the English, they were fared quite well because of their frugal ways. Dr. Winn's account mentioned that the Mexican people were not as thrifty. Mr. Bulmore noted that the total amount of

receipts of the miners fund for the last sixteen years under Mr. Randol was \$108, 954.00.

Professor. G.E. Lighthall, the headmaster of the mining town school, had three teachers under his supervision. Previously, Professor G.E. Lighthall had been engaged in teaching in Santa Clara County for eighteen years. Professor G.E. Lighthall's account indicated that his students appeared to be well to do. Professor Lighthall was asked whether the mining company had coerced the miners into doing anything against their will. Professor Lighthall denied that any such treatment existed.

The mining camp had two brass bands, one in the English camp and one in the Mexican camp. There were also church choirs. There was a public library connected with the schools at the mining camp. People paid a deposit to insure the return of the book; the books were free and the deposit was made to insure the safe return of the books to the library.²⁹

Miner William Stiles, an Englishman, noted that he worked at the mine for thirteen years. Stiles made from \$80.00 to \$117.00 a month. Stiles felt that the treatment of the men employed at the mine was good. The miners received coupons from the company store.³⁰ This was called *boletos*. The miners were paid once a month. Stiles indicated that he paid six dollars a month for rent. He cited that his house had six rooms. According to Stiles, miners were read rules before they went to work. Stiles

noted that he did not know a man to quit work on account of a rule. He explained that many workers remained for a long time.³¹

IX. New Almaden Settlements, and Towns.

New Almaden was made up of three distinct settlements and towns, the Hacienda, Mexican, English, Chinese settlements which were situated on Mine Hill. The Hacienda was the headquarters supervisory personnel and those who worked in the vicinity of the reduction works.

Casa Grande was the most prominent building in New Almaden. Francis Myers built Casa Grande in 1854, under the direction of H.W. Halleck. Originally, this structure was intended to be a hotel. Subsequently, it became the permanent residence of the mine's manager after construction and a place to entertain prominent people as politicians and bankers of Santa Clara County.³² The first occupant of Casa Grande was mine manager Henry Halleck, who remained until 1863. Samuel Butterworth lived there until 1870. James Randol live at Casa Grande until 1892. When Randol left Robert Bulmore was the last official resident until 1900.³³

English camp witnessed rapid growth after the arrival of James Randol. This settlement consisted mainly of Englishmen. Many of the houses were surrounded with white picket fences and vibrant and colorful gardens. The mining company took an an interest in the upkeep of each house.

Apparently, The Mexican camp was situated near the furnace which destroyed the vegetation from its vapors. This

was the reason why the Mexican camp lacked the manicured appearance of the English camp. Many of the homes in the Mexican camp were accessible only by a narrow footpath. The Mexican camp was self-sufficient with a bakery, a tamale house, fruit store, barbershop, second-hand store, a shoemaker, a company boarding house, a small school house, the Hill saloon and two cemeteries, the Hidalgo and Guadalupe. The Chinese camp was situated near the mine's main shaft.

Since the California Gold Rush era many Chinese arrived in New Almaden to work at any menial job they could find. The Chinese worked according to piece work and were paid according to the amount of quicksilver they gathered from refuse. Their wages were at the lowest level they were subjected oftentimes to cruel taunts and unjust treatment. Richard Wachs, New Almaden Quicksilver Museum docent noted that the emperor of China sent an emissary to New Almaden to see if he could procure quicksilver ore. The emperor sent a pagoda as a token of his appreciation. Located at the New Almaden Museum in San Jose are eight columns from this pagoda.³⁴

X. Transportation

As of 1881, there was approximately six or seven miles of private roads constructed by the New Almaden Mining Company. Including a road which traversed from the Hacienda to Mine Hill 1,000 feet vertically. The company maintained these roads at a cost of \$500.00 per year. Two miles from

the Hacienda was the nearest railroad. There were two different railroad systems having regular passenger and freight service. The South Pacific Coast and the Southern Pacific built lines to New Almaden in 1886. Prior to the advent of the railroad to New Almaden, the Almaden stagecoach was the only way of going to San Jose. Train fares were cheap and economical. A one way train ticket cost thirty-five cents. In comparison, the stagecoach charged a dollar for the exact trip. The proximity of the railroad expedited the manufacture of quicksilver at New Almaden.

XI. Conclusion

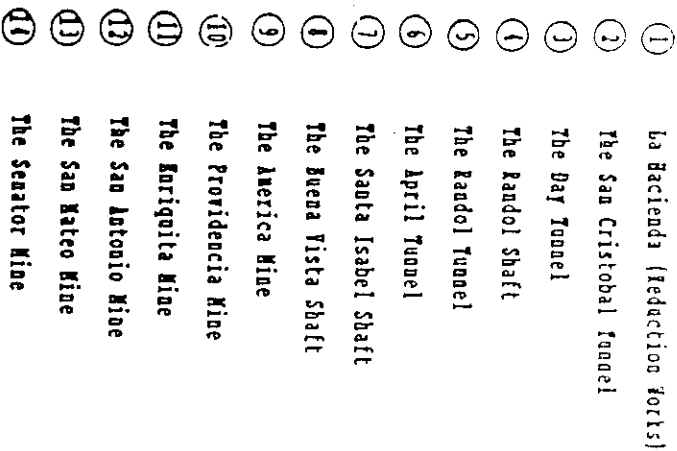
The New Almaden miners were exploited and paid low wages. They worked under very hazardous and risky conditions. Although the miners striked, there is no evidence that they formed unions. There was a toll gate which permitted the mining company to regulate who entered New Almaden. I found it strange that in a sequence of testimonies on the accounts of New Almaden, not one questioned the authority of the mining company. It was remarkable that under these conditions New Almaden's miners did not unionize.

In 1991, I visited, historic Bodie gold mining ghost town located in California. The tour guide said that Bodie's miners earned \$4.00 a day. Even though at Bodie the cost of clothing, food, lodging, etc. was high Bodie's remote location still earned a competitive wage. Whereas at New Almaden the miner fell victim to the whims of the

mining company. New Almaden was a company town, Bodie was not. Quicksilver mining at New Almaden lasted into the twentieth century while Bodie's lifespan was short-lived. Bodie was a wild and rowdy town characterized by gun fights, drunkenness, and promiscuity. Early on New Almaden had saloons which tempted the miner to squander his paycheck. This type of wild and gregarious living was typical of frontier towns in the American west.

APPENDIX A

0 1 1/2 1 1/2 1 mile



APPENDIX B

Lincoln noted following in a letter to F.F. Lowe:

There seems to be considerable misunderstanding about the recent movement to take possession of the New Almaden mine. It had no reference to another mine or mines. In regard to mines and miners generally, no change of policy by the government has been decided on, even thought of, so far as I know, the New Almaden mine was realized in this, that the occupants claimed to be the legal owners of it, on a Mexican grant, and went into court on that claim. The case found its way into the Supreme Court of the United States, and last term, in and by that Court the claim of the occupants was decided to be utterly fraudulent. Thereupon it was considered the duty of the Government by the Secretary of the Interior and the Attorney General, and myself, to take possession of the premises, and the Attorney General carefully made out the writ and I signed it. It was not obtained surreptitiously. Although I suppose General Halleck thought it had been when he telegraphed, simply because he thought possession was about being taken by a military order, while he knew no such order had passed through his hands as general in chief. The writ was suspended upon urgent representations from California, simply to keep the peace. It never had any direct or indirect reference to any mine, place, or person, except the New Almaden mine and the persons connected with it.

Yours Truly,

A. Lincoln."

(Nicolay and Hay, The Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln, Lamb Publishing Co., New York, 1894, Vol. IX. pp. 85f)

APPENDIX C

J.M. Hutchings noted the matter of miners' wages:

"The miner is not paid by the day, received pay for the ore he extracts. They usually work in parties of two to ten: half the number during the day the other half by night, in this manner serve as checks upon each other. Should a drone get into the number, complaint is made to the engineer, who has to settle such matters, which he generally does placing him with a set nearer his capacity, ore sometimes by a discharge. The price of the ore is settled by agreement for each week. Should the passage be more than commonly laborious, they do not earn much; or if, on the contrary, it proved to be easy and of great richness, the gain is theirs' it being most infrequent for them to thirty to forty dollars a week a place, and seldom less than fifteen.

(Hutchings, J.M. Yosemite Guide to the Valley, Scenes of Wonder and Curiosity in California. New York: A. Roman & Company, 196)

APPENDIX D

In a letter from Randol to New York, Randol noted:

"To add to the joys and pleasure which the manager here is supposed to enjoy, I am threatened with a strike by the workers as on Saturday morning a notice in Spanish and also in English was formally posted on the Hill saying the miners were being robbed, the present manner of weighing ore calling for a change or demanding them all to stop work.

I had the poster removed and another put up offering \$50.00 for the name of the writer. I sent for the Cornish captain and told them if they were not satisfied with my rules they could have their pay and take leave. They said they were without complaint. I then called the captains, about 50 of them, together and one lending courage to another they were loud in their complaints against what they termed unfair weighing.

(Stanford University Library)

APPENDIX E

In a letter to mining manager Randol, Arnot complained of strike organizer, Jose Antonio Garners's activities:

"He came to me yesterday, complaining that the American men are not getting the same proper cargo as they did previous to the last strike. I sent him to Mr. Halley to settle the matter as it was clearly his business. I intended to clear that man from the hill and if it can be done in no other way, then, through the use of force as he is becoming a perfect nuisance. I am told that the men are contemplating a small fund to pay Garner to look after their interests to see that they are not overworked and to see fair prices are paid them.

(In a letter from N.D. Arnot to Randol, 1865, Stanford University Library)

APPENDIX F

James Nowland wrote to his superior in San Francisco:

"To: S.F. Butterworth

From: J. Nowland, S.P.T.

I must call to your attention the fact that there are yet on the hill some of the leaders in the strike of a year ago. . . I am satisfied they are brewing mischief. . . I wish to eject about 10 men with their houses [families] from the premises of company. I propose to make the upperhand myself at once and keep it. I must have some aid to enable me to do it. I think if Chief Burke would let you have ten good men for two months, I can accomplish all that I wish and keep the employees in subjection, the difficulty that I have to contend al surrender unless by instruction from you.

Yours respectfully,
J. Nowland, S.P.T.

(New Almaden Mine Manager's Letterbook, New Almaden Museum)

APPENDIX G

The Mercury noted miner's grievances in association to New Almaden:

"On Saturday last Mr. Butterworth met a body of these workmen to listen to their grievances and endeavor if possible to recognize all difficulties. They demanded that they should be paid for their work by weight instead of measure. This demand was acceded to. They demanded that they should be paid semi-monthly, instead of monthly, which was also acceded to. They also refused to take out leases for their dwellings, and notified Mr. Butterworth that on and after Saturday next they would discontinue work at the mine, and that other miners should not be allowed to work until their demands were all acceded to. The company was determined to maintain their rights, even though it resulted in a temporary suspension of their works, and they were never better able to stand a suspension than a present, being in the highest tide of financial prosperity."

(San Jose Mercury News, January 21-24, 1865)

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