

Obtaining accurate historical data on early mining operations is often the job of a mining geologist. It is a difficult job as all old mines and prospects are surrounded by glamorous myths, promotional optimism and some outright lies. When a mine closes down rumors start and the ore becomes richer and the circumstances of the mines closing more mysterious with each passing year. Unfortunately when a mine was opened everyone was too busy and had their heads too high in the clouds to sit down and write a factual account of the operations. Also, some mines were started for pure stock-selling purposes and a factual history of the operations was the last thing on the minds of the operators. Far too often by the time a qualified observer arrived on the scene the mine or prospect was abandoned and the mine workings inaccessible.

In search of historical data two sources of information may be available: The testimony of old residents and written records or reports. The testimony of old residents is always interesting and often valuable but must be carefully analyzed. In the area of an old mine the history of the mine usually has been passed down verbally through the generations and seldom loses any glamour in the telling. This is not usually through insincerity any more than old fishing stories are insincere but time seems to erase unpleasant memories of poor ore in a mine and magnify the pleasant memories of any good ore found. Written records and reports are particularly valuable in obtaining historical data and range in reliability from old stock brochures to reports by competent geologists and engineers.

In compiling a brief history of mining operations in Pulaski County I have relied heavily on several excellent publications written by some of the best geologists of their time. They are:

- (1) "The First Report of a Geological Reconnaissance of the Northern Counties of Arkansas" (1858) and "The Second Report of a Geological Reconnaissance of the Middle and Southern Counties of Arkansas" (1860) both written by David D. Owen, who was the first State Geologist of Arkansas and was appointed by E. N. Conway, Governor of Arkansas in 1857 to survey the geology of the entire state.
 - (2) Annual Report of the Geological Survey of Arkansas for 1888, Vol. 1, "Report upon the Geology of Western Central Arkansas with Special Reference to Gold and Silver" by Theodore B. Comstock, Assistant State Geologist of Arkansas during 1887.
 - (3) Arkansas Geological Survey Report for 1890, "Manganese" and Arkansas Geological Survey Report for 1892, Vol. 1 "The Iron Deposits of Arkansas" both written by R. A. F. Penrose, Assistant State Geologist of Arkansas and one of the foremost geologists of the period.
 - (4) United States Geological Survey Professional Paper 299 (1958) "Geology of the Arkansas Bauxite Region," by Gordon, Tracey and Ellis.
- Many other reports and publications too numerous to mention were used as well as the testimony of a reliable resident in compiling this history.

Before delving into the history of the various mines and prospects in Pulaski County let us briefly go into the geology of the county. Pulaski County can be divided into three physiographic provinces. Western Pulaski County is in the Ouachita Mountain Region which consists of intensely folded and faulted shales, cherts sandstones and novaculite cut by small igneous bodies and by milky white quartz veins. Northern Pulaski County is in the Arkansas Valley Region and is composed of folded and faulted sandstones and shales. Southern and Eastern Pulaski County is in the Gulf Coastal