

New Jersey Zinc Corporation (Austinville, VA) Records II

New Jersey Zinc Corporation (Austinville, VA) Records II,
1925-1969



Title Statement

New Jersey Zinc Corporation (Austinville, VA) Records IIA Guide to the New Jersey Zinc Corporation (Austinville, VA) Records II, 1925-1969 Ms.2011.037

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2011.037

Unit Date

1925-1969

Language

English .

Abstract

The New Jersey Zinc Corporation Records II contains maps, surveys, memoranda, and reports related to the New Jersey Zinc Company.

Extent

3.3 Cubic Feet 6 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

Permission to publish material from New Jersey Zinc Corporation (Austinville, VA) Records II must be obtained from Special Collections, Virginia Tech.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to Special Collections in 1999.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the New Jersey Zinc Corporation (Austinville, VA) Records II was completed in March 2011.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: New Jersey Zinc Corporation (Austinville, VA) Records II, Ms2011-037, Special Collections, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.

Historical Note

The lead mines of southwest Virginia were first discovered by Colonel John Chiswell in 1756. Chiswell mined lead ore on the New River in Augusta County (now Wythe County) from 1760 to 1766, and furnished large supplies of lead to Virginia during the French and Indian War. A fort and trading post were set up at this time near the mines. Chiswell died in 1766, and ownership of the mines was transferred to William Byrd. The mines were leased to the state during the Revolutionary War.

In 1789 Moses and Stephen Austin contacted for the lead mines and bought them from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Due to mismanagement, the lead mines reverted back to the state in 1802. In 1806, Thomas Jackson bought the property, now in the town of Austinville, in Wythe County, at a public auction in Richmond. He constructed a shot-tower on the New River, which operated from 1812 to 1830 and still stands today.

From 1830 to 1898, the property was mined by Daniel Sheffey and David Pierce or their descendants. From 1838 to the 1850s, the firm was called the Wythe Lead Mines Company. The Union Lead Mine Company, as it was called in 1860, contributed more than 2,000 tons of lead to Confederate troops in the Civil War. After the discovery of zinc in the 1860s, the Union Lead Company formed the Wythe Lead and Zinc Company.

The Wythe Lead and Zinc Company sold all of its ore in 1898 to the Bertha Mineral Company, which operated in Pulaski, six miles northeast of Austinville. In 1902, the New Jersey Zinc Corporation purchased Bertha holdings and the Austinville property.

For more information on the early history of the Austinville lead and zinc mines, see: Austin, Vera Lee. 1977. *The Southwest Virginia Lead Works, 1756-1802*. Thesis (M.A.)--Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1977.

Scope and Content

The New Jersey Zinc Corporation Records contains maps, surveys, memoranda, and reports by and about the company. Maps and surveys range from the mines in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia and often relate the mineral deposits found there. The collection also houses weekly reports that detail the accomplishments of the week and worker hours. The General Instruction Memorandums show how the New Jersey Zinc Company complied with federal regulation and how the owners in New York shared this information with their supervisors and workers in the mine areas.

Related Materials

Special Collections contains another collection related to the New Jersey Zinc Corporation. See New Jersey Zinc Corporation [Austinville, Virginia] Records. Preliminary inventory available on the Virginia Heritage database. Ms1991-032.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
New Jersey Zinc Company

Arrangement

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The collection is arranged in chronological order, with the exception of two binders of material and oversized maps and surveys, which appear at the end of the collection, each in their own separate boxes.

Description of Subordinate Components

Titanium Bearing Lands Near Elf, NC,

Unit Date 1925

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Articles and Publications,

Unit Date 1926-1965

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Applied Potential Survey,

Unit Date 1949

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Geology of the Kennesaw Mtn - Sweat Mtn Area of Cobb County, GA,

Unit Date 1951

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4-6 (folder)

Monthly Reports,

Unit Date August-December 1951

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Geologic Maps of Georgia,

Unit Date 1952

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Reconnaissance Geologic Survey of the South Paulding County Area, GA,

Unit Date 1952

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Thin Section List,

Unit Date 1952-55

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Exploration of the Little Bob Mine Area, GA

Unit Date 1953

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Exploration of the Swift Prospect, GA

Unit Date 1953

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

General Instruction Memorandums,

Unit Date 1953-1958

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Geochemical Prospecting in the Fall Branch Belt of Knox Dolomite, TN,

Unit Date 1953

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Maps of Mineral, VA, with Indexes,

Unit Date 1953-1958

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Weekly Reports,

Unit Date 1953-1955

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7-8 (folder)

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Work Progress Summaries,

Unit Date 1953-1955

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Lithium Potential, Kings Mountain Pegmatite Belt, NC,

Unit Date 1954

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Operation of Radioactivity Surveys in NC,

Unit Date 1955

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Preliminary Report of Metallic Mineral Deposits of Charlotte, Greensboro, and Raleigh, NC,

Unit Date 1956

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5-6 (folder)

Inter-office Correspondence and Maps,

Unit Date 1969

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Soil Sample Location Maps,

Unit Date 1969

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Geochemical Sample Record,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Geology Lab Notes,

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Drilling,

Unit Date 1926-1955

box 4

Geophysics: Geochemical Prospect, Methods and Equipment, Soils,

Unit Date 1926-1955

box 5

Oversize Surveys and Maps,

Unit Date 1949-1964

box 6