

Lonnie Miller, Compiler, Research Papers Regarding Coal History in Southwestern Pennsylvania A&M 4078

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1887-2014



Title Statement

Lonnie Miller, Compiler, Research Papers Regarding Coal History in Southwestern Pennsylvania A&M 4078

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4078

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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Unit ID

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Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/3542

Unit Date

1887-2014

Unit Date

1940-1990

Language

English

Abstract

Research papers regarding history of coal mining and coal disasters in southwestern Pennsylvania compiled by Lonnie Miller, an electrical inspector for the Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Much of this material was apparently used by him for his books "Robena: A Chronological History of Robena Mine" (1997), Robena Photographs: A Pictorial History of Robena Mine in Greene County, Pennsylvania" (1998), and "Warwick Coal Mines, Greene County, Pennsylvania" (2000). The collection includes official mine accident reports; pamphlets; copies of books by Miller; publications by and about the National Mine Rescue Association and the UMWA, among other topics; historical narratives regarding mining in southwestern Pennsylvania; information regarding mine safety technology; photographs; mine maps; and other material. Digital materials include .jpg files used in Marianna & Mine No. 58. The Big Mine. Washington County, PA. and a press release in .doc format for the book. This collection is minimally processed.

Extent

7.6 Linear Feet 7 ft. 7 in. (6 document cases, 5 in. each); (1 document case, 2 1/2 in.); (3 records cartons, 15 in. each); (1 large flat storage box, 1 1/2 in.); (1 large flat storage box, 3 in.); (1 box, 5 in.); (2 map boxes, 2 in. each); (1 cardboard display); (oversize loose papers)

Extent

0.01 Gigabytes 75 files, formats include .jpg and .doc

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

Robena Mine Explosion:

The United States Steel Corporation Robena mine in Carmichaels, PA was known as the largest mine in the world in 1946 at the peak of its coal production. Around 1:00 p.m. on December 6, 1962, two gas and coal dust explosions in the Frosty Run shaft of the Robena #3 Mine trapped and killed approximately 37 workers (deaths are primarily attributed to the first blast). The explosions were so strong that they reportedly knocked down men working underground approximately two miles away.

These explosions have been attributed to an ignition of methane gas by friction sparks or electric arc that was propagated by accumulated coal dust. The mine was classified as "gassy" by the State of Pennsylvania and the Bureau of Mines prior to this incident. Recovery operations commenced at 3:00 p.m. the day of the explosion and ended December 11, 1962.

Sources:

"Greensboro, Pennsylvania. " Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, December 28, 2020.

"Robena Mine Explosion." United States Mine Rescue Association: Mine Disasters in the United States. Accessed January 4, 2021.

Zuchowski, Dave. "Remembering Robena: Mine Disaster Still Hangs Heavy 57 Years Later." Greene County Messenger, December 13, 2019.

(This link is dead as of 2026-06-17).

Mather Mine Disaster:

The Mather Mine disaster describes the methane gas and dust explosion in the Pickands-Mather and Company's Mather Mine in Mather, PA on May 19, 1928. The explosion occurred at 4:07 PM, during the transition from day shift to night shift when the majority of day shift workers had already exited the mine and the majority of night shift workers had just reached their northwest section work areas.

Investigations and survivor reports propose that the incident was triggered by an arc from a battery-powered locomotive operated in the affected area. Of the 209 workers in the affected area at the time of the incident, 193 died in the explosion or were suffocated by afterdamp (choking gas left after a methane explosion), 2 died in the hospital post-rescue, and 14 successfully escaped.

(Adapted from "Mather Mine Disaster." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, October 20, 2020.)

Nemacolin Mine Fire:

On Friday, March 26, 1971, at approximately 10:20 a.m., a fire occurred in 118 straight mains section in the Nemacolin Mine of the Buckeye Coal Company. There were 125 persons underground, 11 of whom were working in 118 straight mains. Of the 11 working in the affected area, nine persons escaped, and two persons were killed. Additionally, William L. Groves, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources' State Deep Mine Inspector, drowned accidentally while fighting the fire directly on April 16, 1971.

The Nemacolin Mine Fire served as the first deployment of the MESA's (later MSHA) Mine Emergency Operations (MEO). Although unsuccessful in finding and rescuing the two miners trapped in the Nemacolin Mine, this event marked the dawn of much needed technology, equipment, and capability to search for and rescue miners trapped in mines.

(Adapted from "Nemacolin Mine Fire." United States Mine Rescue Association: Mine Disasters in the United States. Accessed January 4, 2021.)

Scope and Contents

Research papers regarding history of coal mining and coal disasters in southwestern Pennsylvania compiled by Lonnie Miller, an electrical inspector for the Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Much of this material was apparently used by him for his books "Robena: A Chronological History of Robena Mine" (1997), Robena Photographs: A Pictorial History of Robena Mine in Greene County, Pennsylvania" (1998), "Marianna & Mine No. 58. The Big Mine. Washington County, PA.", and "Warwick Coal Mines, Greene County, Pennsylvania" (2000).

The collection includes official mine accident reports; pamphlets; copies of books by Miller; publications by and about the National Mine Rescue Association and the UMWA, among other topics; historical narratives regarding mining in southwestern Pennsylvania; information regarding mine safety technology; photographs; mine maps; and other material.

This collection is largely unprocessed; this contents list is an incomplete listing of the collection's contents.

Separated Materials

Books separated to the book collection:

Warwick Coal Mines. Green County, Pennsylvania. By Lonnie Miller. Published by Rita Miller. 2000

Marianna & Mine No. 58. The Big Mine. Washington County, PA. By Lonnie L. Miller. Published by Rita J. Miller; Husband & Wife Team. 2008

Cumberland Mine Fire. Greene County, PA. June 4, 1987. By Lonnie L. Miller. Published By Rita J. Miller. Husband & Wife Team. 2001

Nemacolin Mine Fire. March 26, 1971 & Memories of: The Mine, The People. By Lonnie Miller. Published By Rita J. Miller. Husband & Wife Team. 2003

Description of Subordinate Components

Accident report -- Meigs No. 3 Mine, southern Ohio

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145049

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Accident report -- Consol No. 9 Mine, Farmington, West Virginia, 1968

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145050

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Accident report -- Upper Big Branch Mine, Raleigh County, West Virginia, 2010

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145051

Unit Date 2011

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Accident report -- TJS No. 1 Mine, water inundation

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145052

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Program -- mine rescue contest

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145053

Unit Date 1988

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Accident report -- Greenwich Collieries No. 1 Mine, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, 1984

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145054

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6-7 (Folder)

Accident report -- Southmountain Coal Company, No. 3, 1993

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145055

Unit Date 1993

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Accident report -- Wilberg Mine, Utah, 1984

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145056

Unit Date 1987

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Accident report -- Warwick Mine, Greensboro, Pennsylvania

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145057

Unit Date 1992

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Accident report -- Homer City Mine, Pennsylvania, 1983

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145058

Unit Date 1984

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Article -- Bob Murray in Coal People Magazine

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145059

Unit Date 2005

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Article -- "Sago Ruling Overturned by Federal Mine Review Commission"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145060

Unit Date 2014

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Pamphlets (several items; types of material include safety rules, bylaws, etc.; examples of material include reference booklet on electrical work in mines, constitution of National Mine Rescue Association, Bethlehem Steel safety rules, model bylaws for UMWA local unions, coal wage agreement, etc.)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145061

Unit Date ca. 1970-1990

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Publications -- "The Great Coal Strike of 1978" (Spartacist Publishing Company)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145062

Unit Date 1978

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Publications -- "Robena Photographs: A Pictorial History of a Coal Mine and Its Miners" by Lonnie Miller

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145063

Unit Date 1998

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Publications -- "Robena: A Chronological History of Robena Mine in Greene County, Pennsylvania" by Lonnie Miller

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145064

Unit Date 1997

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Publications -- National Mine Rescue Association 25th Anniversary (program)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145065

Unit Date 1949

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Publications -- Greene County Coal Miner Monument, Dedication (program; also includes a history of coal mining in Greene County, Pennsylvania)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145066

Unit Date 1995/05/26

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Publications -- instructions for breathing apparatus

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145067

Unit Date 1962

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Publications -- Mathies Mine (includes reports and history regarding non-injury underground coal mine fire)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145068

Unit Date 1984

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Publications -- Mine Power Systems, Information Circular in Book Form, by Bureau of Mines

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145069

Unit Date 1990

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Subject file -- National Mine Rescue Association (includes information regarding rescues following fires and explosions)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145070

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Subject file -- John L. Lewis and UMWA (includes pamphlet on pensions)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145071

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Subject file -- deed (The Buckeye Coal Company to Cumberland Coal Company)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145072

Unit Date 1946

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Publications -- "Brief History of Coal and Coke in Pennsylvania" by Walter J. Storey

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145073

Unit Date ca. 1980-1990

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Publication -- "Final Report on Mather Mine Explosion" (photocopy; also includes extensive set of color copied clippings; Mather is in Greene County, Pennsylvania)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145074

Unit Date 1928

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Publications -- "100th UMWA Anniversary, Passing the Torch" (Lewis to Trumka)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145075

Unit Date ca. 1970

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Publications -- UMWA Journal (extensive set of originals)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145076

Unit Date ca. 1970s

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Publications -- "Uniontown's Part in the World War"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145077

Unit Date ca. 1918-1919

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Publications -- "Coal Fields of Southwestern Pennsylvania" (photocopy of book)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145078

Unit Date 1907

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Maps -- Gateway Coal Company

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145079

Unit Date 1980s

Mixed Materials 4 (Box)

Photographs -- Warwick Mine

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145080

Unit Date ca. 1940s-1980s

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Photographs -- steamboats (postcards, four items)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145081

Unit Date ca. 1900-1920

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Publications -- article regarding Bob Murray

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145082

Unit Date 1999

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Publications -- "Connellsville Coke" (photocopy of book regarding Frick operations)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145083

Unit Date ca. 1910

Mixed Materials 5 (Box)

Photographs -- Robena Mine (in notebook)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145084

Unit Date ca. 1940s-1960s

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Photographs -- Warwick Mine (in notebook; includes many identified group portraits)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145085

Unit Date ca. 1940s-1960s

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Photographs -- Robena Mine (in notebook; includes photos and clippings)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145086

Unit Date ca. 1940-1995

Mixed Materials 6 (Box)

Accident report -- Quecreek Mine Rescue Report, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145087

Unit Date 2002

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Photographs -- Robena Mine (in two notebooks)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145088

Unit Date 1940s-1960s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Publications -- "Frick Bulletin"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145089

Unit Date 1950s

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Other material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145090

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 7 (Box)

Motion picture material (VHS tapes) -- various coal mining related topics

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145091

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 8 (Box)

Mixed Materials 9 (Box)

Ephemera -- decals (commemorating mine safety; variety of graphic designs for a variety of mining operations)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145092

Unit Date ca. 1980s

Mixed Materials 10 (Box)

Artifacts (includes buttons, belt buckles, and other material)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145093

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Ephemera -- decals (commemorating mine safety)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145094

Unit Date ca. 1980s

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Photographs -- overland belts in Greene County, Warwick Mine signs

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145095

Unit Date ca. 1980s

Mixed Materials 11 (Box)

Oversize -- UMWA Charter for a Local Union

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145096

Unit Date 1972

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Oversize -- UMWA Journal Issue Announcing Death of John L. Lewis (mint condition)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145097

Unit Date 1969

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Oversize -- front page of newspaper regarding Nemacolin Mine Fire

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145098

Unit Date 1971

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Oversize -- front page of newspaper regarding Quecreek Mine Rescue, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145099

Unit Date 2002

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Oversize -- Nemacolin Coal Magazine (includes extensive series of historical articles with photographs)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145100

Unit Date March 1986

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Oversize -- formation of first local of the Mine Inspectors Institute of America (in Colorado; original documents in legal sized folder)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145101

Unit Date 1924-1925

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Oversize -- published information on Connelsville Coal and Coke (photocopies, including illustrations, diagrams, and historical narrative)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145102

Unit Date 1993

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Oversize -- other material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145103

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 12 (Box)

Maps -- Robena, Ronco, and Warwick mines

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145104

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Broadside -- wage scales

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145105

Unit Date 1887-1888

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Clippings -- Robena Mine explosion (consists of one laminated roll protecting an extensive series of clippings regarding the explosion)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145106

Unit Date December 1962

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Oversize -- other material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145107

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 13 (Box)

Maps

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145108

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 14 (Box)

Maps

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145109

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 15 (Box)

Maps -- mines in southwestern Pennsylvania

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145110

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)

Poster exhibit -- Robena mine explosion of 1962

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/145111

Unit Date ca. 1962

Mixed Materials unboxed (Box)

Photographs and Press Release for "Marianna & Mine No. 58. The Big Mine. Washington County, PA."

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/194285