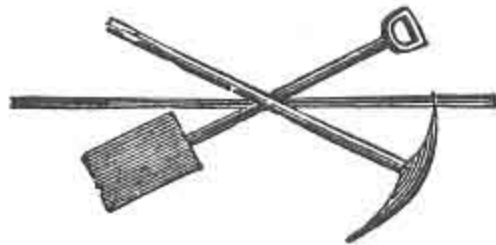


A
HISTORICAL
TIMELINE
OF
SANDY MINES
AND ITS
NEIGHBORING
COMMUNITY

IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

BY
JOHN LINHORST



2009
Second Edition

Forty miles south of the City of St. Louis, and just minutes north of the County Seat of Jefferson County lays the vestiges of an important piece of Jefferson County history. Research suggests it was a mining operation with a small populace that I believe contributed greatly to the early development of Jefferson County.

Sandy Mines was discovered nearly 200 years ago, just 21 years after the Louisiana Purchase, and just three years after the admission of the State of Missouri into the Union.

A small community in Sandy Valley most often referred to as Sandy Mines, occasionally called Sandy Ridge, and at other times simply referred to as Sandy, was home to a fairly extensive mining operation that was estimated to be nearly a mile in length with the deepest shaft somewhere in the range of 150 feet.

There is very little that remains of the Sandy Mines area today; several sinkholes and one remaining tunnel are all that are currently in existence. It shouldn't be overlooked that Sandy Mines was once a prosperous contributor to Jefferson County and is an important piece of county history that needs to be remembered.

The mine no doubt raised ore that was then sent to the smelters and shot towers of Herculaneum and just as Herculaneum is remembered as contributing greatly to the history of Jefferson County, so, too should Sandy Mines.

Once appearing on a list of registered townships in the State of Missouri, Sandy Mines was home to a post office not once, but twice, which further suggests the importance of the area known as Sandy Mines.

Historical Timeline of Sandy Mines

1800s

April 30, 1803

The Louisiana Purchase was signed, securing the Louisiana Territory in the name of the United States.¹

October 6, 1807

Robert Cagle transfers 650 acres of land in Sandy Valley, amongst which Sandy Mines will later be established, to William Johnston.²

November 13, 1809

William Johnston splits 650 acres of land and transfers its ownership to two people, James Anderson and William Russel. Russel then transferred his ownership of the land to James Anderson.²

1810s

1810

Moses Austin helps in the construction of a shot tower in Herculaneum.³

October 1, 1812

The first General Assembly of the Territory of Missouri met. The five original counties organized were Cape Girardeau, New Madrid, St. Charles, St. Louis, and Ste. Genevieve.¹

Jefferson County, Missouri



*Organized as a County
December 8, 1818*

*2007 Population
216,469 Residents*

*Land Area
656 Square Miles*

*County Seat
Hillsboro*

*First Incorporated City
Herculaneum, July 22, 1819*

*Sandy Mines
Location of Mine Opening:
N 38° 17.0.0'
W 090° 30.756'*

December 8, 1818

Parts of St. Louis and Ste. Genevieve Counties were reorganized into Jefferson County.⁵

1820s

August 10, 1821

Missouri is admitted to the Union as the twenty-fourth state by President James Monroe.¹

1824

Sandy Mines was discovered in 1824 in Jefferson County.^{6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11}

1824 - September 23, 1826

It is estimated that 445 tons of ore was mined from the southern third of the mine during this period.⁷

1824 - 1856

It is estimated that the mine produced 5,000 tons of ore during this thirty-two year period.⁶

1825

Lieutenant Martin Thomas of the U.S. Army, and Superintendent of Lead Mines in Missouri and Illinois, took possession of Sandy Mines and entered into a lease with David Bryant and William Glasgow of Herculaneum.¹²

1825

Miners from the nearby county of Sangamon, Illinois, come to Sandy Mines looking for work.¹³

1826

Sandy Mines was reported to have yielded 442 tons of ore during this year.¹⁴

March 6, 1826

Senate Bill S.80, later approved, gives the United States rights to unclaimed mining properties in the State of Missouri.¹⁵

January 30, 1828

A House bill, later approved, calls for a repeal of Senate Bill S.80 on the grounds that lead mines in the State of Missouri should be sold in the same manner as other public lands that were being sold.¹⁶

1830s

1830 - 1849

It is estimated that Sandy Mines annual average production was 167 tons of ore.¹⁴

1832

Sandy Mines was reported to have yielded 333 tons of ore during the year.¹⁴

1832

Written about Sandy Mines:

"In Jefferson County, the Sandy Mines were operating in 1832 and during subsequent years, while Lee's Diggings, south of the Mammoth Mines, were being worked in 1836."¹⁷

1832

It is estimated that 333 tons of lead were being removed annually from the northern third of the mine.⁷

1840s

1840

The County Seat is moved from Herculaneum to Hillsboro.³

1844 - 1849

Operations of the first Sandy Mines Post Office began.¹⁸

1844 - 1845

One hundred fifty tons of lead ore were raised from Sandy Mines.¹⁹

1846

Sandy Mines Post Office was noted as having John Anderson as Postmaster.²⁰

1850s

1855

Written about Sandy Mines:

"The points at which mining has been carried off in Jefferson County are comparatively few; but, from the geological formations prevailing here, there is every reason to believe that these will be considerably increased. Among the best known may be enumerated Sandy, Tarpley, and Mammoth Mines. SANDY MINES; Town. 41N., R.5E., Sec.18; These mines have been worked, at intervals, for a number of years. The diggings extend over a line nearly one mile in length, the course of which is a little east of north and west of south though the principal part of the work has been down on some 500 feet at the south end. The ground is covered with clay, the thickness of which varies from fourteen to thirty feet. Below this, judging from the debris thrown out, are some beds of impure, bluish, argillaceous limestone. Plate 6 represents a vertical section of the more important works at this mine, and in the construction of which I am indebted to Mr. Coolidge, the present proprietor, for considerable aid, for at the time of my visit it was filled with water, and all underground examinations were impossible. The deepest shaft has been sunk 155 feet; drifts have been run between some of them at two different levels. A short time ago a

pump and engine were put up to drain the mine; but at the time of my visit, operations had been intermitted by the person who now has a lease and has been working it for some year and a half. Above the rock considerable quantities of mineral were obtained, some twenty years ago, but all on the same north and south line, and even extending into the rock. In the rock the mineral seems to exist in a vertical fissure, and, so far as I can learn, not continuous from top to bottom, but principally accumulated at three different levels. At the first point, at which the mineral is found, in the rock it is represented as having a vertical range of six or eight feet, below which the fissure partially closes to a depth of from six to ten feet, when it is again found to widen out and contain mineral, in a vertical range of ten or twelve feet. Below this the fissure again partially closes for a depth of ten or fifteen feet, and at this point mineral is again found, with a vertical range of from fourteen to twenty-five feet. I am assured that the fissure is well defined and distinct from one level of mineral to the other. Of the yield of this mine since 1840, Mr. Coolidge is unable to give any definite and accurate statement, as the furnace in the neighborhood has, during this period, belonged to different persons. By one who was working for the present lessee, I was informed that, during the present year, about 30,000 pounds of mineral has been obtained; and from Mr. Coolidge I learn that, in 1842 and '43, several thousand pounds of mineral were raised; and, in 1846 and '47, some 300,000 pounds; and at other times considerable amounts, of which we can give no accurate account. The ore is the sulphuret, with small quantities of the carbonate, and sometimes accompanied by yellow iron pyrites and zinc blend."¹⁹

1855

Fifteen tons of lead ore were raised from Sandy Mines.¹⁹

November 17, 1856

Mail service to and from Hillsboro to Sandy Mines, twice a week, was established at a cost of \$50 annually.²¹

1856-1862

Operations of a second Sandy Mines Post Office began.¹⁸

1859

Written about Sandy Mines:

"Mammoth and Sandy Mines have yielded large amounts of lead, and a particular account of them is given by Dr. A. Litton, in the 2d Report of the Geological Survey."²³

1860s

August 10, 1861

The Civil War reaches Missouri when the Battle of Wilson's Creek resulted in a Union retreat, leaving southwestern Missouri in Confederate hands.¹

July 14, 1862

Request for use of blasting powder in Sandy Mines; by John Farley, in an affidavit for S. S. Homanes, wanting permission to use powder for blasting in the mine.²⁴

April 9, 1865

General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, effectively ending the Civil War.⁴

1870s

1873

Sandy Mines was purchased by a company who wished to “work the lode in a systematic manner.”²⁵

1873

Sulphuret of Iron is associated with the lead at Sandy Mines and Yankee Diggings.²⁶

May 2, 1873

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“J.B. Dover, William Shelton and Sullivan Frazier appointed commissioners to view a new road from Sandy Church via. Thos J. Hensley's and Sandy Mines, to the Hillsboro & Le May Ferry gravel road to the line of the David Boyle survey, thence by the school house of district 8, school township 13, H. Brady's, thence to the widow Herrington's thence to Big River at McCulloch's Ford, thence up the river to Morse's Mill.”²⁷

1874

Sandy Mines is listed as a registered Missouri town, in the western part of Joachim Township.²⁸

1874

Written about Sandy Mines:

“The Sandy Mines, of Jefferson County, were discovered in 1824 soon after Schoolcraft made his report, yielded 886,905 pounds of ore from the southern third of the mine during the year ending September 23, 1826. This fact is derived from high personal authority and an investigation of the record at the time of the transaction, and now in the possession of Charles S. Rankin, of Pevely, Jefferson County, Missouri. From other evidence derived from the same source, it appears that the northern third of this lode, in 1832, was yielding ore at the rate of 666,666 pounds yearly; and those who are most familiar with these mines, and especially with the superior yield of the middle one-third partly described by Litton, estimate their production during the thirty years from 1824, at 10,000,000 pounds.”⁷

June 18, 1875

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“Mr. John Giles, of Sandy Mines, presented us with some very fine specimens of lead ore and tiff last week, for which he has our thanks. No one, after looking at the specimens, can doubt the existence of lead at Sandy Mines in paying quantities, and John Giles is the man that knows how to find it.”²⁹

1876

Map lists landowners near Sandy Mines. I. Fashold and C. Bettman to the East, David Bryant, H. Prout, and W. Lentkermier to the West, D. L. Jarvis to the North and D. Webbels to the South. The map also pinpoints what appears to be the length, distance, and direction of the mine by use of triangles, when traced from their originating point on the property of H. Prout, move through D. L. Jarvis and T.C. Fletcher properties as they approach Sandy Creek.³⁰

December 14, 1877

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“On Thursday of last week, Wm. Beckleg and Pote Williams had a narrow escape from death, by the premature explosion of a blast. They were sinking a shaft on Sandy Mines, Beckleg had put in a blast and fired it, and Williams was hoisting him up. When the two got near the top, both men stopped to look down to see if the fuse was still burning, and at that moment the blast fired, throwing Beckleg out onto ground and giving him several ugly cuts about the head and face with bits of stones. Williams also received some bruises, but neither is dangerously wounded.”³¹

December 28, 1877

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“At Sandy Mines, one day last week, Jas. Nichols and Bert Leroy had a row about 80 cents which the latter owed the former, during which Nichols drew a knife and stabbed Leroy seven times. We understand that Leroy is recovering, and that Nichols has surrendered himself to the proper authorities.”³¹

January 5, 1878

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“Jack Quinly, who has been working at or near Sandy Mines, got on a rampage one day last week on account of a girl that was staying with Wm. Turner; and smashed in a window and otherwise damaged Mr. Turner’s residence. He was followed to St. Louis by Mr. Turner and another man and arrested and brought back. When on their way to a Justice of the Peace to have Quinly tried, the girl overtook the party, and she and Quinly were married, and everybody felt so awful good-natured that prosecution for the disturbance was abandoned, and Quinly and his bride went on their way rejoicing.”³²

March 15, 1878

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“Dr. Sapper gave medical attention to and surgical operation on pauper at Sandy Mines.”³³

1880s

January 16, 1880

Newspaper transcription mentioning Sandy Mines:

“Two Cornish miners named Roach and Jones, who have been working at Sandy Mines for some time, continued their Christmas spree until they go wild. Last Sunday Roach attempted to kill himself, first cutting his arms and neck with a knife, then tried to spit his head with an axe, failing in this he laid the axe on a table and fell with his neck on the edge, cutting his throat badly. He will probably make a die of it yet. Jones has sobered up, and is taking care of his pard in their shanty.”⁵³

May 13, 1881

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“On petition the road commissioner was ordered to survey a new road from a point on the Morse’s Mill and Pevely road, corner of lands of Frazier, Littlemeyer, Marsden and Whipple, over lands of Littlemeyer, Frazier, Gehring and others, to intersect the Sandy Mines and Horine road.”³⁴

May 20, 1881

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

"Commissioner's report on new road from Sandy Mines and Horine road, on Caspon Neiter's land, to Sandy Church and Morse's Mill road, at Emily J. I. Hensley's approved, and road ordered opened and established."³⁵

March 21, 1883

Newspaper transcription mentioning Sandy Mines:

"The blacksmith and wagon-maker shop at Sandy Ridge, was burned down last Sunday night with all the contents. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary, as no fire had been in the shop that day, the blacksmith, Fritz Koch, and wagon-maker, Claiburn Moss, being both away from home. There was no insurance, and the loss will be severe to both men, as they had valuable tools. We do not want to believe that any one in the neighborhood is so mean as to do such a trick, but circumstances indicate such to be the case."⁵⁴

1885

Written about Sandy Mines:

"Most of the lead of Central and Southeast Missouri is found in the "Third Magnesian Limestone," some also in the "Second Magnesian Limestone," and the lead and zinc deposits of Northern Arkansas are probably of the same age. The counties chiefly abounding in these ores are Washington, Jefferson, Crawford, Franklin, Miller, Cole, Morgan and Benton, with scattering deposits in other counties. The ores in these rock occur in pockets, openings, chimneys, lodes, veins or crevices, or else in softened and broken portions of the rocks. When in lodes or veins the course is generally nearly north and south, as at Sandy Mines, Virginia Mines, Cole Camp and Dolph Mines."²²

December 7, 1887

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

"Rev. Joel Hensley is re-covering his barn and sheds; H.T. Temming is repairing his barn, and others are preparing to improve. Wesley Mockbee has moved to his farm, situated on the south end of Sandy Mines. G.R. Johnson and son are building a bridge for the county near Mrs. Hensley's, and doing a good job."³⁶

1888

Description of Sandy Mines,

"Sandy Mines extend over a line nearly one mile in length, the course of which is a little east of north and west of south. The ground is covered with clay from fourteen to thirty feet deep. By one who was working for the present lessee I was informed that during the present year (1855) about 30,000 pounds of mineral had been obtained; and from Mr. Coolidge I learned that in 1842 and 1843 several thousand pounds of mineral were raised, and in 1846 and 1847 some 300,000 pounds. The ore is sulphuret, with small quantities of carbonate, and sometimes accompanied by yellow iron pyrites and zinc blend."³⁷

1888

Mention of Sandy Mines,

"The Sandy Creek Baptist Church was organized by Rev. Thomas Donahue, about the year 1835, with James Frazier and wife, John Herrington, Mrs. William Aeyde, Fleming Hensley and wife and James Hensley and wife as constituent members. About the same time a log building, costing about \$200, was

erected for a church edifice, and used as such until about 1843, when it was replaced with a frame church, costing some \$600. The present church, consisting of a brick building, was erected in 1878, at a cost of \$100. This is the old pioneer Baptist Church of Jefferson County, and stands about one and a half miles east of Sandy Mines. At present the membership is 116. The pastors of this church have been Revs. James Williams, W. Stephens, William McMurtrey, James P. Cape and Sullivan Frazier. The latter is a son of one of the constituent members, James Frazier. The Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church was organized about the year 1840. Reuben Pounds and H. Lea were the deacons; they and their wives, and James Williams and others were constituent members. About the same time a log church was erected, and about the year 1860 a frame church was erected in place of the old one at a cost of \$800. This church is located near Big River, in the western part of the county. Its pastors have been James Williams, Washington Stephens, William McKay, N. M. Pierce, W. H. Hensley and Price McKay. It has a membership of 131. Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church was organized in the forties with James Williams, Silas Belew and wife, and other constituent members. Its church edifice, being a frame building, was erected in 1848; it is situated on Dry Creek. With one or two exceptions its pastors have been the same as those of Bethlehem. Its membership is 105.”³⁸

April 9, 1888

Record of Death near Sandy Mines, Fannie Boehmer, age 23, died October 27, 1887, apparently due to giving birth prematurely, Physician Overseeing, G. M. Mockbee M.D., Hillsboro, MO.³⁹

1889

Written about Sandy Mines:

“The Sandy Mines have not been worked for several years and when in operation it was without machinery hence the hand labor necessary to bail the never easing flow of water in the mines was found too expensive for paying results and operations were discontinued. Lead ore is reported to exist all over that section and only awaits the planting of necessary machinery to be very productive.”⁵⁰

1890s

1894

Written about Sandy Mines:

“THE SANDY MINES GROUP. In this group we include a number of mines which occur in the township 41N., 5E., west of Crystal City. The most noted of these are the Sandy Mines, the Gopher and the Herculaneum Mines. The Sandy Mines are located in the N. ½ of section 18. They were discovered in 1824, and were quite extensively worked during the early years. In 1826, they produced 450 tons of ore, and up to 1856 had yielded 5000 tons. As examined by Litton at that time, the diggings extended about a mile in a direction somewhat east of north. The deepest shaft was 155 ft., passing first through 14 to 30 ft. of surface clay, and then into a bluish earthy limestone. The ore in the rock occurred in a vertical crevice which expanded and contracted so that the galena was mined from a series of connected cavities, somewhat as is shown in the adjoining sketch. These enlargements were found at three different levels. The crevice remained perfectly well defined between these, however. The ore was principally galena, but some cerussite was mined, and, at times, blende and pyrite were found. Broadhead describes the deposit as a nearly vertical fissure running North to South, from a knife edge to 17 inches wide, with a wall-rock of magnesian limestone. This, he states, was filled with barite and galena. It had been traced for several miles. The reported two other fissures parallel to this, a few hundred feet apart.”⁶

1896

Maps list landowners near Sandy Mines. J.M. Mockbee and B. Marsden to the North, H.H. Linhorst to the South, Amelia Tenning, John Miller, R. Ghoken, T.A. Hensley, and C.T. Jarvis to the East, D.W. Bryant and W. Leutemeyer to the West. The Mockbee and Marsden properties appear to be the same ones mentioned as the H. Prout property in 1876. On this map, there are no details regarding Sandy Mines.⁴⁰

1900s-Present Day

February 01, 1917

Newspaper transcription regarding Sandy Mines:

“A new mining company has been organized and have leased up all the ground they can get hold of in the neighborhood of the old Sandy Mines and the prospects look good for developments.”⁴¹

August 15, 1937

In an interview, local resident Fred Mahler describes Sandy Mines:

“There used to be considerable mining, but the mines have not been worked for the last fifteen or twenty years. Most of the ore was taken out to Herculaneum by way of Pevely Moss Mill Road.”⁵¹

Evidence suggests that Pevely Moss Mill Road is a misspelling in the transcription, and should be read as “Pevely Morse Mill Road.

2007

This report mentions Sandy Mines, among others in the state as a confirmed hazardous waste site.

“Sandy Mines, located in N 1/2 of Section 18, T 41 N, R 5 E, Hillsboro, Jefferson County, is currently awaiting a Site Assessment Unit (SAU) investigation.”⁴²

April 10, 2008

The Jefferson County Leader publishes a story about the Department of Natural Resources and their plans to have the original mine shaft filled.⁴³

April 13, 2008

Video and photographs taken of various sinkholes, foundations, pits, and the mine entrance itself, a shaft which easily stretches 65 feet below the surface.⁴⁴

June, 2008

A “North Exit” of the mine if explored and documented, along with other locations on the Lindwedel Property. An account of these is shown in Addendum One.⁵²

Biographical Sketches of Sandy Valley Residents

Taken from "A History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties",
Biographical Appendix, Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888

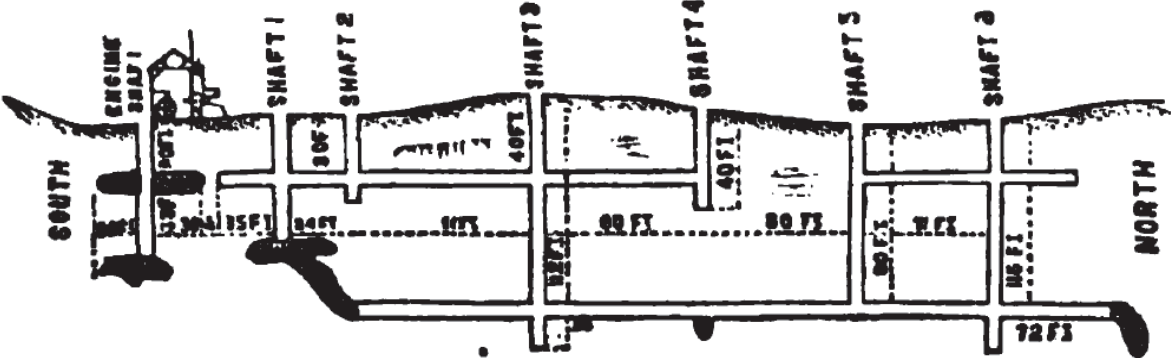
"Rev. Joel M. Hensley, a Baptist minister and farmer of Joachim Township was born in St. Louis County, near where Clayton now stands, in 1832. The son of Flemming and Jane (Milton) Hensley, natives of Virginia, where they lived until perhaps 1826, when they came to Jefferson County and settled at Sandy Mines for about one year, and then removed to St. Louis County, but in 1837 returned to Jefferson County, and spent a short time at Sandy Mines, after which he moved lower down on the Sandy where he has since made his home. He is now nearly ninety years old, probably the oldest man in Jefferson County, where he has resided for over fifty years. He is of Irish-English descent, and a life long farmer by occupation. His father, Benjamin Hensley, was in the Revolutionary War, and served three years under George Washington. He died in St. Louis County. He had three sons in a rifle company in the War of 1812. Flemming Hensley was married at the age of twenty, and lived a happy married life of over sixty years. His wife died in February, 1881. Both were members of the Baptist Church for over fifty years, and both lived to see Jefferson County converted from a dense wilderness to its present state of improvement. Joel M. received a fair education, and in 1856 married Miss Alice M. Williams, a native of Jefferson County, and the daughter of Landon and Elizabeth Williams. Seven children were born to Mr. Hensley's marriage, six of whom are now living: Wilson Lawrence (of Dakota), Anna (now Mrs. James H. Brown), Marilla (Mrs. Joseph Adams), Alfred J., Felix Asaph and Oliver E. With the exception of a short time in Jefferson County, in 1859, Mr. Hensley has since lived on his present farm of 128 acres, situated seven miles northeast of Hillsboro. He also has fifty two acres in another tract. For perhaps twenty years he has devoted much of his time to the ministry, which has materially added to the works of the church. He was at one time assessor of Joachim Township, and served about three years as justice of the peace, prior to his ministry. He is an educated worker, and has few equals in his neighborhood. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since perhaps about 1856, and in politics has been a life long Democrat, as was his father before him."⁴⁵

"Thornton Jarvis, farmer and stock trader of Jefferson County, Mo., was born in Fleming County, Ky., in 1806, and is the fourth of ten children born to Daniel and Martha (Thompson) Jarvis, who lived for many years in Kentucky, but spent the last of their days in Indiana. Thornton was reared in Kentucky, and received little or no educational advantages. In 1826 he came west, landed in St. Louis when it was a mere village, and soon came to Jefferson County, where he paid \$150 for eighty acres of land in Joachim Township, and here lived until 1883. He then removed to Hillsboro. He came to Jefferson County with very little means, but by labor and good management is now, perhaps, the heaviest taxpayer in the county. At an early day he spent a number of years hauling lead with an ox team from Sandy Mines to Herculaneum. He has spent a very successful career of sixty two years in the county, and is a prominent and enterprising citizen. He has been twice married, the first time a few years after he came to Jefferson County, to Miss Martha Gaiter, who died of cholera, in 1849. In 1851 he married Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Landen and Elizabeth Williams. Mr. Williams was born in South Carolina, and when young came at an early day to Jefferson County, where he was married, and where he passed a useful and enterprising life. Mrs. Williams was born in Missouri. To Mr. Jarvis and wife seven children were born, four now living: Daniel, Dora (wife of Joseph J. Hoeken), Izella (wife of O. H. Donnell) and Charles T. The two sons are living on the old homestead farm, and are in flourishing circumstances. All the children have had good educational advantages. Mr. Jarvis is a Democrat in politics, and cast his first presidential vote for Gen. Jackson, in 1828. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and of the Baptist Church. Mrs. Jarvis is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South."⁴⁶

Falkland H. Williams, a successful farmer and stock raiser of Central Township, was born near Pevely in 1840, and is the seventh of twelve children, six of whom are living. He is the son of Silas and Nancy (Adams) Williams. The father was born at Charleston, S. C., in 1801, but came with the rest of the family, except the father who died in South Carolina, to Cape Girardeau, Mo., in a very early day, where Silas and a brother ran a shoe shop for some years. Silas then came to Jefferson County and invested in the Sandy Lead Mines, which he operated for some time. He was married about 1825, and soon after settled near Pevely on a farm, and afterwards settled at Sandy Ridge, six miles north of Hillsboro, where he died in 1852. He was a natural mechanic and could manufacture almost anything in the cabinet line, etc., but the latter part of his days was passed on the farm. He served in the Black Hawk War and his father was a soldier in the War of 1812. The mother of Falkland H. was born in Nashville, Tenn., in 1811 and died January 13, 1886. Her father was a descendant of ex-president John Adams, and was a soldier in the War of 1812. Both father and mother of our subject were members of the Baptist Church. Falkland H. Williams remained with his mother until he attained his majority; attended the common schools during the winter season. He then spent two years working in the Sandy Mines, most of the time during the night, and worked on a farm or attended the schools during the day. During the winter of 1861 and 1862 he attended school at Benton, Ill. and in 1862 enlisted in Company A, Thirty-first Missouri Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel, afterward Gov. Fletcher, and participated in the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Siege of Vicksburg, and was then taken sick, and in September, 1863 was discharged. He acted as orderly sergeant and commissary sergeant a part of the time. In 1864 he joined the Eightieth Regiment of Enrolled Missouri Militia. In 1865 he married Miss Fannie C., daughter of Elder Sullivan and Martha Frazier, and a native of Jefferson County. Mr. Frazier was a well known Baptist preacher, and an early settler of Jefferson County. Nine children were the result of Mr. Williams' marriage, six of whom are now living: Lizzie May, Josie G., Dollie C., Falkland H., Walter E. and Charles Carl. Mr. Williams first located on the old home farm, but in 1868 he removed to an adjoining farm, seven miles north of Hillsboro, where he has 108 acres of fine productive land. He has been a life long farmer, has served two years as constable and several years as deputy sheriff. Under township organization, he was township clerk, is a firm believer in the Democratic principles, and voted for Seymour, in 1868. He is a member of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Aid Association, and he and wife are members of the Baptist Church.”⁴⁷

Drawings and Descriptions of Sandy Mines

Plate 6.

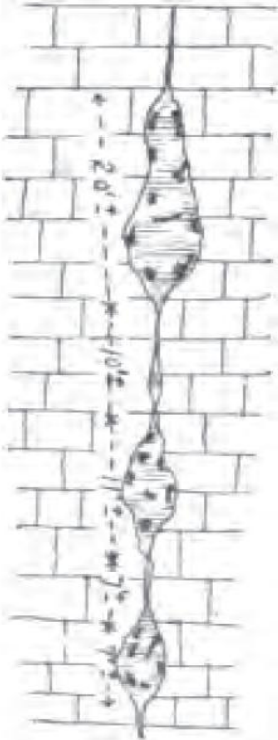


H. A. ULFFERS, Del.

SANDY MINES, JEFFERSON COUNTY.

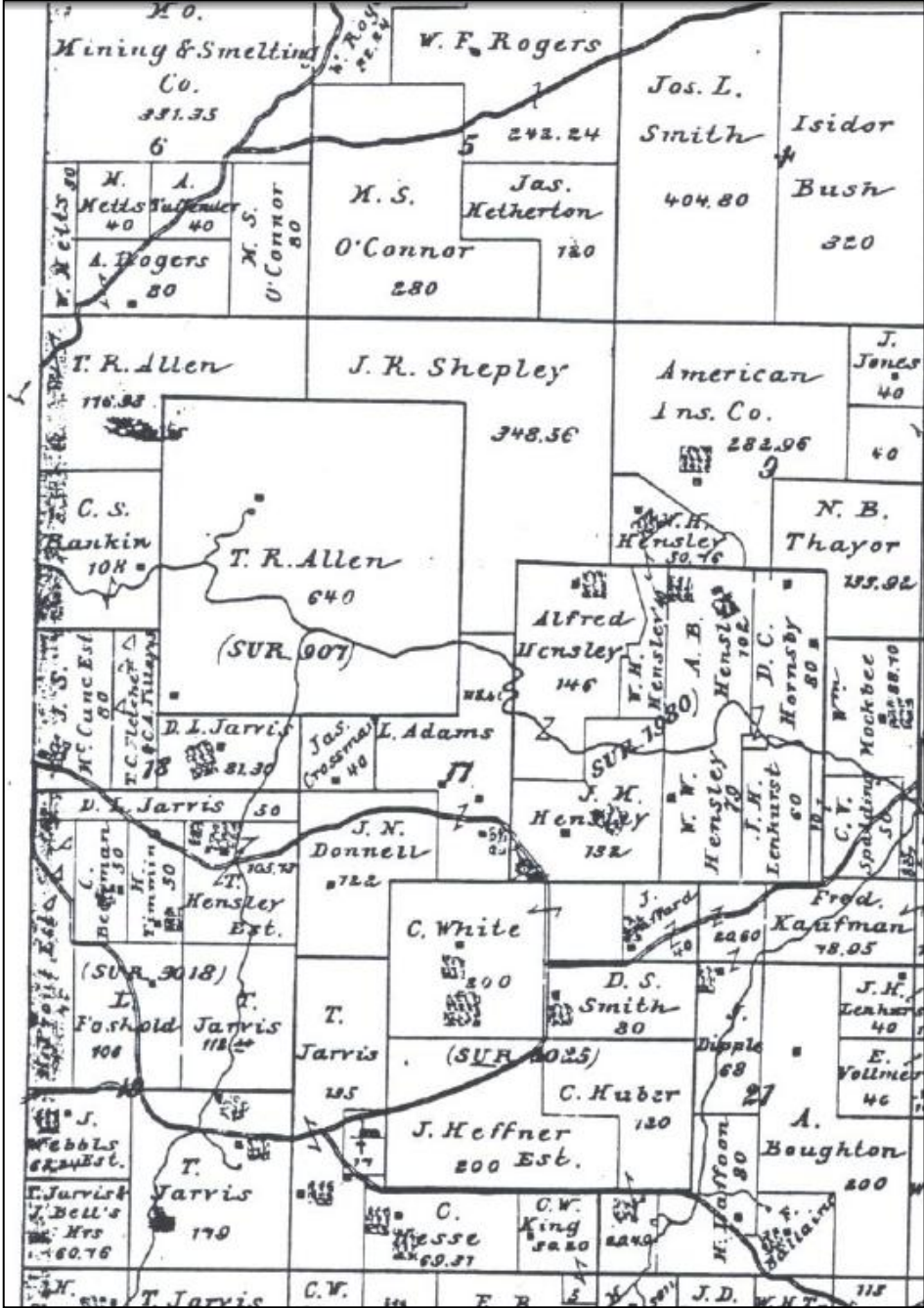
Scale—200 feet to inch.

In an 1855 drawing of approximately the first 600 feet of Sandy Mines, the shaft marked “Engine Shaft” is presumed to be the mine shaft on the Vogt Property.¹⁹



This 1894 drawing of the Sandy Mines fissure indicates the depth at which lead was mined at various levels within the ground, as the drawing of the fissure indicates the depth at which each pocket was located.⁶

Map of the Sandy Mines Area



This map shows landowners in and around Sandy Valley in 1876. It also shows the Westernmost part of the Joachim Township. To the Southwest of the T.R. Allen (Sur. 907) property, a long, narrow strip of property owned by H. Prout is the assumed land on which the mining entrance was located in 1876. Stretching from the South to the North are a line of small triangles, described in another period map to be location markers for lead ore.^{30, 49}



This sinkhole is one of many found near the mine's opening. Possibly a caved in tunnel, this is more likely the site of spot mining, in which miners would have tested the site checking for lead ore.⁴⁴



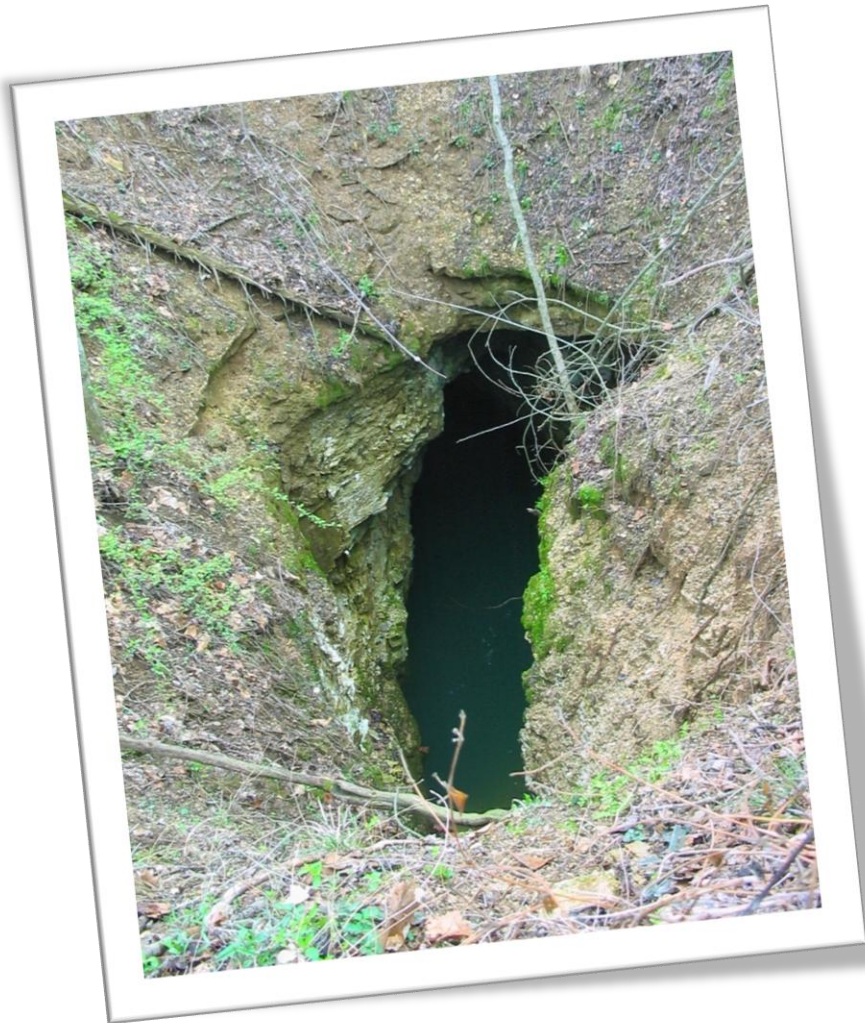
Upon this old foundation once sat a building of some importance to the mining operation.⁴⁴



Near a sinkhole is this six inch pipe that extends deep into the ground. Possibly a ventilation pipe, a pipeline used to pump water from the mining tunnels, or simply a well pipe for fresh water, the explanation for this pipe is still unknown.⁴⁴



These pieces of old foundation were once situated just a few feet from where they are today. Contractors moved these foundation pieces to make way for renovations that were being performed on the property.⁴⁴



This mine entrance was once the main entry for machinery and miners into and out of the mine. At the time this picture was taken, the entrance had as much as twenty feet of water in it.⁴⁴



This sinkhole, very near the mine opening, is most likely the result of spot mining, dug by miners looking for additional pockets of lead ore. The area to the south of the mine entrance is dotted with dozens of these pits.⁴⁴



Taken in early 2008, this picture shows a cave explorer descending into the mine opening. Once inside the mine, the tunnel traverses a path a mere fifteen feet before it is collapsed.⁴⁸



Taken in early 2008, this is a second picture of a cave explorer descending into the mine opening. In the bottom portion of this photo, a pipe can be seen extending up from the ground. Pipes like these were once connected to a machine that removed water from the mining tunnels.⁴⁸



These timbers were found by the cave explorers who journeyed into the mine. Closer inspection of this picture shows that there are still nails holding several of the timbers together.⁴⁸



This lead ore was found near a sinkhole in the vicinity of the mine opening. Ore like this was mined from Sandy Mines, taken to nearby smelters, and was then used in the manufacture of lead products.⁴⁴

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Addendum One

Mine Datasheet

Map of the Goldman and Sandy Valley Area, with Mine Locations Marked.

Courtesy of Google Maps, and the Illustrated Atlas of Jefferson County, Missouri, 1876

Sandy Valley Area, 2008



Sandy Valley Area, 1876



As can be ascertained from the maps shown above, the known mining entrance and exit very closely match that displayed on the 1876 map of Jefferson County. The mining points marked have been matched to their Global Positioning Coordinates, which are displayed below.

Marker	Location
South Entrance	38°17'4.20"N, 90°30'45.36"W
Lindwedel Property	38°17'16.98"N, 90°30'41.22"W
Trench in Field	38°17'23.64"N, 90°30'36.90"W
Large Sinkhole	38°17'28.62"N, 90°30'36.60"W
Low Spot	38°17'43.84"N, 90°30'32.34"W
North Exit	38°17'47.76"N, 90°30'31.14"W

Using Google Earth, I was able to determine the path from the South Entrance to the North Exit, connecting all points in between. This roughly measures .87 miles, which confirms the findings written in the Reports of the Geological Survey of Missouri, 1855, in which the mine is said to have been nearly one mile in length.

Following is a photographic confirmation of the findings at each marker:



South Entrance



Lindwedel Property



Trench in Field



Large Sinkhole



Low Spot



North Exit

The North Exit is quite possibly the most remarkable finding throughout the search for information regarding Sandy Mines. Known to the local population, this area of the mine has evaded the intrusion of both Man and Mother Nature for more than a Century. Although it is nothing more than a 50-foot cavern descending into the earth, as of this writing it is the last physical structure remaining of Sandy Mines. In June of 2008, the last bit of rock was deposited at the South Entrance, filling the shaft to the surface and sealing it off.

Addendum Two

How did we get here?

The story surrounding my work on Sandy Mines is somewhat coincidental. The bulk of my time spent researching was done parallel to work that had begun by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. With the help of a newspaper article and a television station, the following story is the most incredible, albeit improbable adventure I have ever experienced. I never intended to be a historian, but amateur as I may be, I hope that my contribution to the documentation of an important part of Jefferson County's history will live for many generations to come.

We'll start from the very beginning. For generations before my birth, my family has owned property in Sandy Valley. In fact, I estimate that a Linhorst has lived in Sandy Valley since the 1840s. The very first generation of Linhorst's lived on the opposite side of the Valley from where the current Linhorst Farm is situated. That Linhorst emigrated from Germany with his wife and children, arrived in New Orleans, and traveled up the Mississippi River and eventually settled on Sandy Creek in Jefferson County. I am a fifth-generation Linhorst born in the United States. For nearly twenty years prior to my ancestor's arrival in Jefferson County, a lead mine operated just miles from what would become his homestead in the 1840s.

Named Sandy Mines after the same type of soil found on the banks of the nearby creek, the mines contained a wealth of lead ore the amount of which unearthed during its early years is astounding. Hundreds of tons of ore came out of the mine each year and were sent by horse and wagon to nearby smelters for use in ammunition and shot, as well as other lead-based products. The mine continued operations into the early part of the twentieth century, but was eventually abandoned after the mine stopped producing the wealth of ore that it once did. By the early 1940s, the Linhorst family had moved across Sandy Valley to a farmstead totaling nearly 80 acres that bordered Sandy Creek. This farm is just hundreds of yards from the north end of Sandy Mines.

After Sandy Mines abandoned operations around the turn of the century, an existing tunnel at the north end of the mine became a spot for local kids to play and to go hiking to in the woods. This area has been known to local families for generations. According to legend, a brother-in-law of one local resident of Sandy Mines once found a tunnel so wide and so long that he was able to put a canoe into it and paddle several miles beneath the earth in the tunnel. Although this exciting story appears to be entirely fabricated up to this point, by the time I was born, it was general knowledge within the Linhorst family that the old mine tunnel was a neat place to go, especially in the winter when it was warmer in the tunnel than from the icy atmosphere outside of the mine. My father used to play at the mine as a kid in just the same manner as I'm sure other generations of kids had played before him.

I suppose that the true history behind the mining tunnel and Sandy Mines itself had become lost over the generations, because neither my Father, nor my Grandfather had very much information about the mine, other than to say that it was very old.

Fast-forwarding to the early part of 2008: My father, being the archeology enthusiast that he is, was about to entertain a few local home-school students with a stirring lesson in local history. While visiting with him one day prior to their visit, he and I were discussing his talking points, and which of his prized Indian artifacts he planned to show them. He then said that he was going to leave them with an assignment: To find out any information they could about a place that he had heard existed in Sandy Valley once upon a time. That place was called Sandy Mines. Up to this point I had heard the name Sandy Mines mentioned just a number of times in my life. No one really knew what it was, when it was, and for the most part even where it was. As one can imagine, I'm sure those school kids went right home and got to work on that project (let's just say I haven't heard about them finding any new information as of yet.)

But I went home that night and typed “sandy mines” into the search field on the Yahoo! Home page. A few pages of hits came up, and I began to sort through them. On the first page, I ran across a page written by Dave Halleman, member of the Jefferson County Historical Society. In his article, he gives details surrounding a Sandy Baptist Cemetery that once existed on the opposite side of Old Lemay Ferry Road than the modern-day cemetery exists today. While trying to pinpoint the location, the article references the exact latitude and longitude of the original cemetery, as well as an excerpt from a period writing about the old church. In it, it is mentioned that the church and cemetery existed approximately one and a half miles west of Sandy Mines. I thought this interesting, and loaded the installation of Google Earth that I have installed on my computer. Using the place marker and ruler tools, I placed a marker on the approximate location of the mining tunnel on Sandy Creek, and an exact marker for the latitude and longitude for the old cemetery. Using the ruler tool I drew a line between the two. I was astonished to find that the distance was nearly the mile and a half mentioned in Halleman’s article. I gave my dad a call, and using his copy of Google Earth he and I discussed the old cemetery, placed a few more markers on the map and talked about the possibilities of the old mine tunnel being much more than we had ever known.

I was certainly interested now. Over the next several days, I collected information from around the Internet, putting “sandy mines” into every search field in every search engine that I could. It appears that Sandy Mines was a unique specimen for an Internet search. Sandy Mines was a name that not many other entities on the Internet had. The term “sandy mines” was just unique enough to return genuine search results, as well as just unique enough to fool spam-related websites that usually offer bogus information. Before I knew it, I had a dozen different search results, some of them quite interesting. Many were newspaper transcriptions that weren’t specific to Sandy Mines per se, but about the community; about the weekly goings on with the people that lived around the mine. It wasn’t until I attempted completely different search technique that I landed a windfall of detailed Sandy Mines information.

Mention google.com to any Internet-savvy computer user and they’ll know exactly what you’re talking about. As of late the website has been a haven for information available via search engine on the Internet. Google has slowly grown its services to include email and mapping services, amongst a host of others. Google Earth, mentioned above, is one of those services. Another service, launched relatively recently, is the called the ‘Google Books’ project. What Google decided to do was start a digitization project by which any and all books that they could legally obtain would be digitized and made available for reading by using their website, books.google.com. I searched “Sandy Mines” at the Google Books website and pages of relevant information started appearing. As opposed to newspaper transcriptions, these were entire reports, given mostly as a part of the Geological Survey of Missouri. They were also period reports, nearly all of which dated before the turn of the century, with some as early as the 1850s. I started pulling information from these reports and started to develop a timeline of the mine and who and what happened when.

I decided to visit the History Center at Jefferson College next. In their archives were several period maps that helped to pinpoint the area of the county in question and although the maps did not have Sandy Mines marked on them, there were markers on the map that indicated that lead was present. At this point I was just a single person investigating a little-known area that once existed in Jefferson County. In April of 2008 a newspaper would put my research into overdrive.

I came home from work on April 10, 2008 and my wife immediately said, “You need to take a look at the paper. Is this your mine?” Inside of the front page was a story about Sandy Mines, the original mine shaft and how the property owner had called on the Department of Natural Resources to come and fill in the hole. Completely by coincidence this information was in the paper at the same time I was researching the exact same mine. I was absolutely astounded by that fact that the mine I was researching was in the paper. At that, the mine was due to be filled and sealed off! I gave my dad a call

that evening and decided that we needed to visit the mine as soon as possible. I had a hunch after looking over my initial research that the mine opening was located at the place mentioned in the newspaper, but I hadn't come across any maps that pinpointed a location. I called the property owner, Rhonda Vogt that evening, and she agreed to allow me to take a look at her property.

Excited about seeing the property in the coming weekend, I continued my Internet research and came across an interesting document on Google Books. Although I could only read a part of the document due to copyright restrictions, what I was seeing appeared to be a document that originated in the House of Representatives. Dated January 2, 1846, it appeared as though Sandy Mines was talked about within the halls of Congress. But why couldn't I see the entire document? I searched the Internet for another location that held the document, but most institutions either required a membership or a subscription to access their digital library. I talked to the staff in the library at the college. Using their contacts, they were able to determine that the document was part of the Congressional Serial Set, an annual publishing of the day-to-day goings on within Congress. Although they did not have access to the document, I continued to search for a location that did.

My brother was a student at the University of Missouri in Rolla. With his access to all of the University of Missouri library resources, we were able to obtain the document through their online library. The document in full contained a wealth of names and dates pertaining to the origination of the mine, and as I read through the document I gained a clearer understanding of how important lead mining was during the early to middle part of the 1800s. During the early life of Sandy Mines, the mine had been commandeered by the U.S. Army, as had all other lead mines in the Missouri and Illinois area, and were rented out to prospectors who worked the mines and paid rent to the government. A portion of the lead removed from mines like Sandy Mines went directly to the military, having been smelted and turned into shot and ammunition. The Congressional document alleges that rents had not been paid accordingly, and that money owed to the government had been missing over a twenty year period. Several interviews with key Sandy Mines pioneers are mentioned within, including David Bryant and William Glasgow, the first prospectors at Sandy Mines, John Anderson, then postmaster of the Sandy Mines Post Office, and Lieutenant Martin Thomas, U.S. Army Superintendent of Lead Mines in Missouri and Illinois.

The weekend of April 13, 2008 was incredibly cold for a spring day, but I ventured out in search of the mine shaft and any other physical mining-related information I could get my hands on. Along with me were my father, my brothers, my godfather, and my brother's girlfriend. We started first at my godfather's farm. The Lindwedel family as long owned a large tract of land on which they operate a dairy farm. Wayne Lindwedel and his wife Marsha, my godparents, have been longtime friends of my father, and Wayne allowed us to walk his property, as he said there were several sinkholes on his property alone.

We ventured out with the video camera and documented a number of pits and a few sinkholes that are on his property. The biggest of which was nearly forty feet in diameter and most certainly was a portion of a collapsed mining shaft or tunnel. Dispersed along with the pits and sinkholes were remnants of foundations from long forgotten buildings and in one particular spot we found a six-inch cast iron pipe, one similar to those used for drain fields or sewage conduit sticking up eight or so inches above the ground. It would have certainly looked out of place anywhere but here. We were excited to have seen the sinkholes on the Lindwedel property, but were also eager to see that type of sinkholes that awaited us on Rhonda Vogt's property. We headed across the farm and over to the Vogt property. Not a part of the Lindwedel farm, it is a small piece of land surrounded on all sides by the Lindwedel property.

When we arrived Wayne introduced us to Rhonda Vogt, the current owner of the property. Rhonda told us that she grew up on the place, and inherited it from her father a number of years ago. She always knew about the mining hole, but knew very little about it. She said her father put up a fence around it decades ago and as a kid she was never allowed to play near the hole. She pointed us in the

direction of the hole and said we could come back as often as we'd like. Our group headed up the hill around the blue-colored garage and started to scope things out.

With the video camera rolling we first documented what appeared to be a man-made pond or watering hole of sorts. It was nearly a perfect rectangle and had water in it when we arrived. I can only estimate its depth, but it appeared to be fairly shallow. What caught our attention next is still a bit odd. I'm not sure if it was mining related, but we took a few photographs anyway. Sticking out of the ground like a concrete igloo of sorts was a partially submerged concrete dome with an access hole in the top of it. When I looked inside I could see pipes or plumbing of some kind. I have attempted to research such a structure, but have found nothing that matches such a description. From there we headed down the hill a ways, in the direction of what we could see as an old fence, partially broken down, rusted and very much dilapidated.

If you go back and watch the video of the moment in which we all peered down the mine shaft for the first time, it is quite humorous to listen to our reactions. Upon seeing the depth of the hole we were all quite astounded. It is amazing to think that well over a hundred years ago that men dug this hole by hand, removed the ore by hand, and kept the mine shafts dry by removing buckets of water by hand before more modern pumping equipment could be installed. With a sense of amazement we threw a few rocks in the hole and watched as they splashed in the water at the bottom of the hole. We estimated that the hole must have been seventy feet deep or so, and there was no way to estimate how deep the water in the bottom of the hole was. It could have been a hundred or more feet to the bottom.

As the group continued to take pleasure in the fact that we'd found what we came for in seeing the mining shaft, Brian and I decided to venture further down the hill and see what else the hillside may have in hold. We'd already seen a few pits in the hillside near the top of the hill, and I wondered if there were more. As headed down the hill, I counted. There were dozens—some small—some were larger. There were pits all the way to the bottom of the hill. We crossed a dry creek and found more. We continued south and crossed another dry creek and still there were more. It wasn't until the hillside began to climb up again that the pits subsided. There were simply dozens of them—probably too many to count. My understanding of these pits is that they were either test pits where miners would look at the surface by either digging or blasting a hole to see if lead was present, or they were actual surface mines where small pockets of lead were present and were removed from the surface. It is likely that the bigger the pit, the more surface lead was present. We headed back up the hill—little did I know that I would be back at the mining shaft in just days—not to look for more shafts, tunnels, or pits, but to be interviewed for television.

I never thought that in the few short weeks since I started looking for Sandy Mines information, that I would hit such a windfall of information, go to the mine itself (in the beginning I was unsure what parts were still in existence,) start working on a book, and most of all, be on television. The week after we visited the mine I went back to work excited about what we'd photographed and taken video of, and excited about the possibility of finding still more information on the Internet about Sandy Mines. I gave Rhonda Vogt my home telephone number while we were at her property over the weekend. She mentioned that the Department of Natural Resources was interested in any additional information should she come across it. She was also telephoned by a person from the Jefferson County Historical Society. I planned to give these two gentlemen a call when I got my information together. On April 15 I called home just before lunch to check my messages at home. I thought that maybe Larry Teson from the Department of Natrual Resources or maybe someone from the Historical Society would have given me a call if Rhonda had to opportunity to share my number with them. Instead there was a message from Rhonda herself. She said that KMOV Channel 4 wanted to do a piece on the mine. Apparently DNR had a published a press release regarding the upcoming closing of the mine, and Channel 4 wanted to send someone out to get some video of the mine. They also asked if she would like to be interviewed. She refused, but instead mentioned my name and left the message to tell me that the television station

might be interested in interviewing me instead. I gave her a call back to confirm but never thought that I would have received a call.

I went about the rest of my day, came home and had some dinner, and then the telephone rang around six o'clock. It was Mike O'Connell from Channel 4, and he wanted to know if I'd be interested in being on camera. What a rush to think that just over a month ago I knew virtually nothing and now I was being called upon to do an interview as the "expert" with the knowledge on Sandy Mines. I told him I'd be there as soon as possible and headed out the door.

I arrived at the mine around twenty minutes later while Mike O'Connell and his cameraman were doing some promo shots for the piece. They thought it would be a cool effect to video a splash in the water of a rock entering the mining shaft and then panning up to Mike reporting on the mine. I got to throw the rock. Over the next forty-five minutes or so Mike and I walked around and discussed the mine, all the while I was connected to a microphone with a wire attached. I wore the microphone throughout, talking about how I became interested in the mine, about my family's history in Sandy Valley, and about what closing the mine meant to me now that I've befallen so much information so quickly. Mike and his cameraman were personally much more interested in the mine than the "news" was. It would show a bit when the piece aired that night.

I came home and waited patiently for the news to run the piece during the ten o'clock broadcast. Larry Connors introduced the piece, and it was broadcast in much the way of "the mine had to be closed because it's a danger and there's so much development in the area. Someone could fall in and become trapped." Not exactly what I had hoped for, but interviewing for television was a fantastic experience—I hope to do it again sometime. Memorable quotes include, "By the turn of the century, mining had pretty much ceased," and, "In a perfect world we could turn this area into a State Park, but there isn't much left—just this spot in the ground." What else was left to discover? What information was left to expose? A letter to the editor in the upcoming edition of the newspaper was about to put me in touch with other mining enthusiasts and a number of people in the County's Historical Society circle.

At nearly the same time that I was interviewed for television I was readying a letter to the editor of the local paper, the Jefferson County Leader. I sent the letter in the form of an email, anxious to get a response saying that my letter would be in the coming week's paper. Tuesday passed. Wednesday passed. I heard nothing. The paper hits mailboxes on Thursday, and still I had heard nothing. I took the Thursday and Friday of April the 17th and 18th off to do some work around the house. I was in Festus having just left the license office when I received a text message on my cell phone from a co-worker. "Congratulations on making the paper," it said. I hadn't yet seen the paper, so I looked for a nearby stand that contained the latest edition. There was a stand just a block away, and I hurriedly walked to it to retrieve a paper. I grabbed one, headed back to the car and hastily opened the paper to the Opinions section. Right there was my letter. It was edited for content just a bit, but nevertheless I had made it to the newspaper. My letter contained some factual corrections regarding the mine that had been misrepresented in the previous week's edition, as well as additional information about the mine and a call to readers in which I offered to share my information with any parties interested. I would have a few calls the following week that served to be very interesting.

In the days following the distribution of the April 17th edition of the 'Leader,' I received a few messages on my home answering machine concerning the letter to the editor and Sandy Mines in particular. The first of which came from a Washington County resident by the name of Adam Marty. He lived on a piece of land that was once spot mined for lead, and was in the process of compiling a mining-related collection of hardware, ore, and documents that mentioned his mine and other Washington County mines. I gave him a call back and we traded information during a thirty-minute-or-so phone conversation. Although my specific interest in Sandy Mines is more related to the history surrounding Sandy Valley, and its local population, it was nice to speak with someone who had a general interest in history in much the same manner that I did.

A pair of messages that same week came from two people connected to the Jefferson County Historical Society. The first was from Lisa Gendron, who, as far as I can gather, is closely connected to the Society's online presence as she appears to be the individual who updates and maintains the Society's website. I spoke with her briefly a number of times, most of which concerned the publication of my information on the Society's website. I certainly agreed to allow the Historical Society access to my work, but I let her know that I was compiling it in a semi-coherent fashion and would hope to get it to her as soon as possible. She agreed, and the next time I would speak with her would be in mid-June, when the compilation of my work was completed and ready for viewing via the Internet.

My other telephone conversation with a person connected to the Historical Society came from Dave Halleman, an active member in the Historical Society. He was particularly interested in talking with me about the mine and the information I had found. We agreed to meet at the Festus Library on the evening of April 23. He had some of the information that I had, but I shared with him much of what I had up to that point. He was certainly aware of Sandy Mines, but said he was unaware of its exact location, and prior to the newspaper article regarding the closing of the mine was unaware if any portion of the mine still existed. Dave and I have kept in touch here and there since we first met—he is a wealth of historical knowledge and is devoted to Jefferson County's rich history—if only there were others as interested in history in the same capacity that he is. I still run into Dave and another researcher from the Historical Society, Carole Goggin, at the College from time to time. So, armed with the information obtained from Dave Halleman and Adam Marty I continued my research, intending on publishing a "book" of sorts after all my information had been compiled.

I continued my research on Sandy Mines into the following weeks, scanning the Internet for clues and extracting content from old Geological Reports that were over a hundred years old in some cases, adding to the content of my collection, and adding another credible source with each reference. Soon I found myself visiting the History Center at Jefferson College more and more frequently, in hopes of finding more information, but also getting myself acquainted with the History Center itself—the types of documents and information it contained. Loretta Ponzar, librarian and archivist at the College pointed out a ledger that dated to the Civil War and contained a record of debits and credits that belonged to a store that operated very near Sandy Mines. Although it contains very few helpful suggestions regarding the history of the mine itself, it contains first and last names of many of the store's patrons. It is a very interesting and lucky find to have survived all these years in the condition that it is in.

The weekend following my visit with Dave Halleman was spent at other known parts of the mine, what I have given the name of the "North Exit" of the mine. This is the mining tunnel known to the local residents and to the family. I assembled another crew of people to go exploring, my brothers Dave and Brian, as well as my cousin Wesley Haverstick, and of course our faithful mine-exploring farm dog, Cosmo. The family farm sits adjacent on Sandy Creek from the particular corner of the Lindwedel property that contains the North Exit of the mine. Roughly a mile from the South Entrance on the Vogt Property, Sandy Mines would have traversed a path directly beneath Sandy Church Road and through the Lindwedel Property. I wanted to visually document as much of this as I could. With a portion of my team assembled, Wesley and I again visited the Vogt Property. A much sunnier and warmer day than the original day we visited the mine shaft, we again took video of the mine shaft at the "South Entrance" as well as the surrounding holes and pits near the entrance. From there we headed to the family farm, met up with Dave and Brian and headed to the North Exit. If you can imagine a two mile walk from our starting point at the farm, we headed out with flashlights, digital still and video cameras, and of course lunch, we intended to make our way into the North Exit and take video of our proceedings. We met Sandy Creek at the corner of the farm and Lindwedel Property, crossed the creek and proceeded east until reached the North Entrance. Just hundreds of yards west of Survey Number 907 in Township 41, Range 4 East, the North Exit is a fantastic example of the preservation capable of Mother Nature without the introduction of outside influence.

Virtually hidden from existence from all but the long-time local population, the North Exit is surrounded by woods, and is simply easy to miss if one weren't looking for it. I imagine that not much happened at this point of the mine specifically—more lead was probably mined further south of this point—but miners most likely continued to this point in hopes of retrieving as much ore as possible, as well as creating a surface exit with abundant fresh water nearby. The hole itself measures only three feet high by about five feet wide—a belly crawl is required to enter. Once inside, it opens up to a height of nearly six feet—not quite enough for a grown man to stand up in. It is fairly wide in some spots though—as wide as ten to twelve feet in some areas. Fifty feet or so to the back of the mine and the tunnel is collapsed. It simply ends. However if one was to exit the mine and examine the hillside above the tunnel, one would find a long line of sinkholes that have either collapsed over the years naturally or were imploded at some point in the past.

Our crew entered the North Exit and ventured all the way to the back of the tunnel with camera in hand. With flashlights glowing we captured as much of the tunnel as we could. At the time in which we visited the entrance the area was in the midst of an unseasonably rainy period. The tunnel was full of mud two inches deep and condensation continually dripped from the ceiling. The gnats were so terrible that many of us covered our faces nearly to the point that we could not see. Nevertheless it was a worthwhile adventure that not only was a necessary addition to my research, but also stands as quite possibly the only photography and video of the North Exit of the mine. As of this writing, it is also the only remaining portion of Sandy Mines that is still in existence. In July of 2008, the Department of Natural Resources deposited the last of the rock at the South Entrance, filling it to the surface.

The next two months I took my research and compiled it as diligently as possible. By the time I would finish I would have obtained nearly fifty individual sources. As I went through the iterations of draft copies of my work, I let friends and family proofread my work, and eventually I settled of a final draft early in June. I had a few copies printed and bound, and although I wanted everyone to see my work in print, I also intended to allow people access to the document digitally via the Historical Society's website on the Internet. The term "book" is used loosely I must say, as the title I settled on was, "A Historical Timeline of Sandy Mines and its Surrounding Community in Jefferson County Missouri." So it was mostly a detailed timeline, I also contributed some 19th century maps and some photographs I either took myself or were contributed by Larry Teson at the Department of Natural Resources. When finalized, the book contained about twenty pages. I gave away most of my print copies to family and friends that either helped contribute to the research or proofread material for me.

I got in touch with Lisa Gendron at the Historical Society to make her aware that a final copy of my work was ready and available for viewing on the Internet. After six months after it was published, the "newest" history-related article on the Historical Society's website is mine. Apparently not much happens in the history community in our fair county. There's so much research yet to be done on any number of historical topics that involve Jefferson County. It surprises me the lack of interest that the general populace has regarding the history of the surroundings in which they live.

The Library at Jefferson College even posted a message about my research on the History Center's website. I'm not sure that it's drummed up much more interest in my work, but nevertheless it is another way to access the site and view the digital version of the book.

I've continued my research since the final copy was printed and posted to the Internet. Nothing comes close (or will ever probably come close) to the windfall of information that I found in February-April of 2008. I have come across specific bits of information that I have added to my timeline. As of this writing, the edition of the book available on the Internet is the original—I have not yet decided to what extent I will continue to update the digital version.

I have continued to visit areas of interest regarding Sandy Mines. I visited the Lindwedel farm again in July with my father Larry and brother Brian, this time to take pictures and document the latitude and longitude of the various points of interest regarding Sandy Mines. Once documented, I used

Google Earth to plot the points and obtain the specific distance from the South Entrance to the North Exit. Following a path that travels roughly northeast in direction, the complete mine tunnel would have measured .87 miles, nearly that described in the 1876 Atlas of Jefferson County. All of this information and photographs of each point of interest are documented in what I have called Addendum One. I have given the name of Addendum Two to the document that you are currently reading.

I'm sure that I'll never completely abandon the search for more information regarding Sandy Mines. I've attempted several other historical research efforts since the "book" was completed, but none have given me the thrill that the Sandy Mines research has given me. When an extended moment of downtime arrives, I quickly search the gamut of Internet resources that I relied upon so heavily during my original research endeavor. From time to time I encounter new information, and add it to the timeline in as timely a manner as possible.

Here's to Sandy Mines. May its contribution to the early history of Jefferson County never fully be forgotten. Finally, here's to Jefferson County itself. It is the most wonderful place in the world. Rich in history, much of it waiting to be discovered, some of it long forgotten.