

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Club News

December, 2021



After due consideration of the Covid situation in Teller Co. and the poor air circulation in the meeting room, the Leadership Group decided to cancel the December meeting. All LGGMC meetings are now “on hold” until further notice. Watch the newsletter for updates.

Jerrolynn Kawamoto has also decided to put her Wire-Wrapping classes “on hold” until further notice.

NOTE:

November through March meetings normally start at 10:00 AM.

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Scheduled Programs at Club Meetings:

Election of officers has been postponed. Please contact one of the current officers (listed at the end of this newsletter) if you would consider running for 2022.

March - Steve Veatch will return (we hope) for a visit and present the program.

Silent Auction: We need donations for the silent auction at our club meetings! If you have “extras”, whether minerals, fossils, books, or other items, and if you have a label saying what the item is and where it came from, we can use it. If not, bring some cash and be prepared to help support Club activities, including scholarships, Pebble Pups, and other items.

Please Read: If any LGGMC member would like to try your hand at helping with or taking over the newsletter, please let me know. After 13 years, I think it's about time for me to be “sent out to pasture”. Just e-mail me at ccarnein@gmail.com. I'll be glad to help you get started, and I can also help with technical editing. I plan to continue to prepare the monthly mineral quiz and occasional articles.

LGGM Club Field Trips:

Please share your pictures of your finds and adventures on our trips on our Facebook page and with **Bob Carnein** (ccarnein@gmail.com) so we can include them in the newsletter.

After a very successful year, despite Covid, **Dave Alexander** (dave@davealex.com) notes that he has plenty of ideas for field trips for next year. However, he would welcome suggestions for

new trips for 2022 and members who would like to lead a trip. **Contact Dave at the email given.**

ADDITIONAL COMING EVENTS OUTSIDE THE LGGM CLUB: (Nearby gem, mineral, fossil and geology events that you may enjoy.)

Please check the websites to find out current status of club meetings.

- **Cañon City Geology Club**, meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6PM in the United Methodist Church, Cañon City
- **Columbine Gem & Mineral Society**, meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30PM in the meeting room, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida
- **Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**, meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM in the Mt. Carmel Veteran's Service Center, 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs;
- **Pueblo Rockhounds**, meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo.

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Dec. 10-12, Flatirons Gem & Mineral Show, Boulder County Fairgrounds, Longmont CO. Sponsored by the Flatirons Mineral Club, Boulder, CO; see www.flatironsmineralclub.org

Feb. 25-27, Denver Gem and Mineral Guild Show, (returning to its old location), Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building. The club had earlier announced that it would be necessary for this show to move to the Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church gymnasium, but this will NOT be necessary; the show will take place at the Jeffco Fairgrounds after all, as in past pre-covid years.

Mar. 25-27, Fort Collins Rockhounds Show, Larimer County Fairgrounds, Longmont, CO

Wayne Orlowsky sent the following interesting links about geology and mineralogy:



See how volcanic lightning is making the world a safer place:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc-2lfNNmWk>

Spectacular footage of a rare disaster in southeastern France:

[https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2020/10/photos-flooding-southeastern-france/616629/?utm_campaign=the-](https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2020/10/photos-flooding-southeastern-france/616629/?utm_campaign=the-atlantic&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR1GwfkO9RkEz8qGIDhI4x0YFtElleNLZsJnM5vgPe4GMOh_n4DJxDYX3js)

[atlantic&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR1GwfkO9RkEz8qGIDhI4x0YFtElleNLZsJnM5vgPe4GMOh_n4DJxDYX3js](https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2020/10/photos-flooding-southeastern-france/616629/?utm_campaign=the-atlantic&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR1GwfkO9RkEz8qGIDhI4x0YFtElleNLZsJnM5vgPe4GMOh_n4DJxDYX3js)

How would you like a piece of this in your shower stall?

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=312136650750345&id=100129411951071

“Ringing Rocks” to ring in the New Year:

<https://www.geologyin.com/2019/07/ringing-rocks-geological-and-musical.html?fbclid=IwAR3MTWbjmiPUf70upXbYW1KjT5yw8PLvq8kiX9L1BXauLqsmg8cAzCJjpuA>

The story behind a new quartz specimen at the Smithsonian:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2021/10/27/the-story-behind-the-new-8000-pound-quartz-at-the-smithsonian/>

Here's a stocking stuffer I wouldn't mind having:



Tourmaline in quartz, Dara Pech, Kunar, Afghanistan.



And here are a few items I found that I think might tickle your fancy:

How many of you have heard of the mineral davemaoite? It may be more common than you'd guess:

https://www.sciencenews.org/article/mineral-diamond-davemaoite-earth-mantle-heat?utm_source=Editors_Picks&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=editorspicks111521

Which red gemstones are most suitable for rings?

https://www.gemsociety.org/article/red-gemstones/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Newest+Articles+at+GemSociety+org+-+11%2F15%2F2021&utm_campaign=Newest+Articles+at+GemSociety+org+-+11%2F15%2F2021

Would you like to know what the mouse opossum from the Florissant fossil beds looked like:

[Nanodelphys hunti reconstruction - Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/florissant/learn/management/nanodelphys_hunti_reconstruction.htm)

In case you were wondering what's going on in neighboring Custer County:

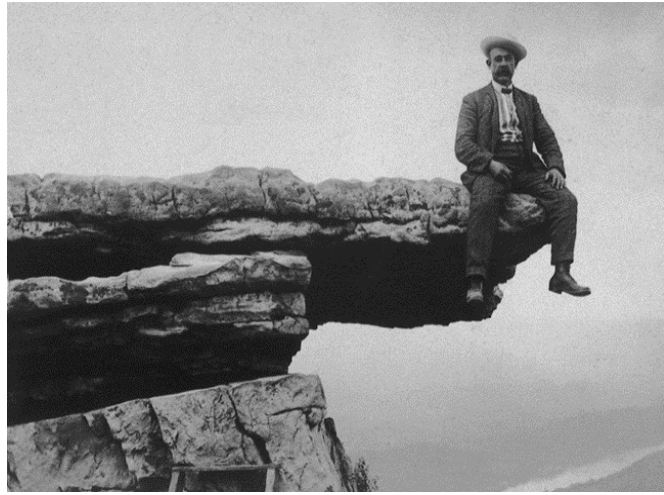
<https://undark.org/2021/11/08/in-colorado-locals-question-a-critical-mineral-survey/>

And here's one last item from Wayne, this one about obsidian:

https://www.geologyin.com/2015/08/obsidian-definition-properties-uses.html?fbclid=IwAR3ly_Q3tHq3nfgKy0ZKUF9NNyK9IZDEQgG8z1Gto1ZUBCg3RRhUnjHoYn4

Here is the latest installment of **“Bench Tips”** by **Brad Smith:**
(www.BradSmithJewelry.com)

Sorry, but we didn't receive any bench tips this month. Watch next month for the latest.



Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein

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Thanks to **Steve Veatch** for sending the following historical article about a Cripple Creek pioneer.

A Cripple Creek Profile: William James Hosley

By
Steven Wade Veatch

Looking for a fresh start, William James Hosley came to the goldfields of the Cripple Creek mining district in Colorado at the dawn of the 20th century. He brought his young bride with him, set up a home in the thin mountain air, and went to work in one of the celebrated mines of Cripple Creek in the summer of 1900. This is his story.

On a wintry Christmas night in 1869, William Hosley was born in a log cabin—across the road from the Hosley family farm—near Howell, Michigan, to Elijah B. and Nancy M. Lawther Hosley. Hosley was born in the cabin because the original farmhouse had burned down and was being rebuilt. The Hosley family farm was in Livingston County, Oceola Township, Michigan, about 4.5 miles from Howell, the county seat.

The young William Hosley attended the Kneeland school, a country school about a mile north of their farm, where his mother taught school. After Hosley graduated from Howell High School, he attended the Cleary Business School in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Following his business school classes, Hosley worked as a shoe salesman for a short period with his cousin, Frederick Hosley. That job did not pan out; so, in 1897, he left Howell and traveled out west to Colorado, where he visited his second cousin, Eva Lawther Parker and her husband, Clarence E. Parker. Clarence Parker lived in Ward and worked as the hoist man at the Modoc mine near Ward. Eva lived in Boulder so their two daughters could attend high school. Both Eva and Clarence Parker were also from Howell, Michigan.

William Hosley stayed with Clarence Parker in Ward. After Hosley arrived there, Parker talked him into becoming a miner. Parker helped Hosley get a job at the Modoc mine, and this was the start of his mining career.

During Hosley's stay in Ward, he met Parker's daughter, Jennie E. Parker (Hosley's third cousin) when she came from Boulder to help her father with housekeeping.

Hosley didn't court Jennie for very long. It was summer, and their romance swept them along to their wedding day. Hosley and Jennie were married in Denver on July 6, 1900. Jennie was 17; Hosley was 30. He was an energetic young man with a sharp sense of his future.

While working at the Modoc mine, Hosley would surely have heard the news coming from Cripple Creek, the "World's Greatest Gold Camp." As Hosley thought about the exciting tales of gold mines, jobs, and limitless opportunities, he grew restless. He could not resist the call of the glittering gold fields of Cripple Creek, and soon after his wedding, he and Jennie moved to the gold camp.

William Hosley and his wife settled in the town of Independence, one of more than a dozen camps in the Cripple Creek mining district. Hosley then started work as a miner at the nearby Vindicator mine. He quickly fell into the routine of his job, and each day brought him a sense of purpose.

At 17 years old, Jennie Hosley set up housekeeping with immense pride—she had a home of her own and a husband with a steady job at the Vindicator. In the winter of 1900, she was pregnant with her first child when she contracted smallpox. Despite her health struggles, she gave birth to a healthy boy, Sterling Elijah Hosley, on August 12, 1901. The arrival of little Sterling crowned her happiness.



Figure 1. Modoc gold mine and mill near Ward, Colorado. Clarence Parker worked in this mine, and his stories of mining encouraged William Hosley to become a miner. Photo date 1894. Unknown photographer. Photo courtesy of the Carnegie Library for Local History/Museum of Boulder collection.



Figure 2. William Hosley on his wedding day, July 6, 1900, in Denver, Colorado. Unknown photographer. From the private collection of Kathleen Liddy.

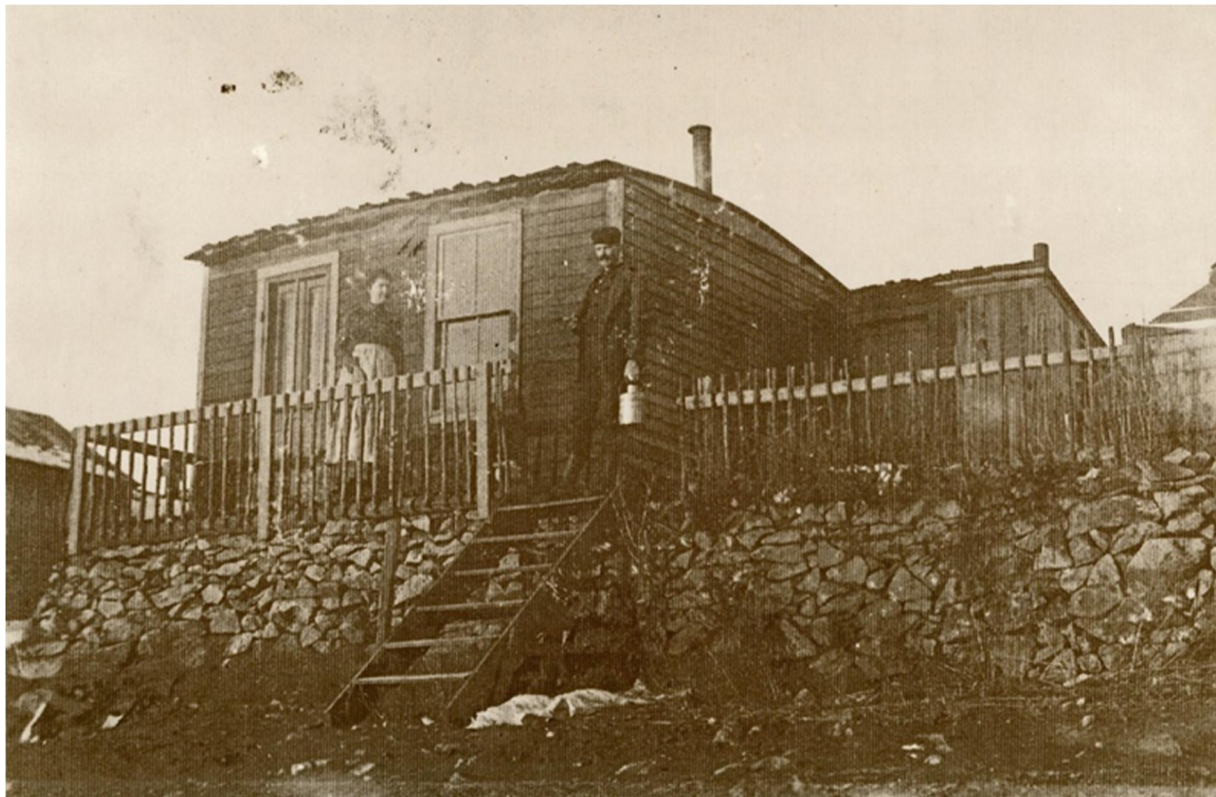


Figure 3. Jennie and William Hosley stand on the porch in front of their home in Independence. William holds a cigar in his right hand and a miner's lunch bucket in his left as he gets ready for a shift at the Vindicator mine. Photo date circa 1900. Unknown photographer. From the Kathleen Liddy collection, courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

Independence was platted in a ravine in 1894 and soon became a popular place for miners and their families to live (Taylor, 1966). By 1900, when Hosley arrived, 1,500 people lived in Independence, mainly in roughly built, one-story lumber houses (Sprague, 1953). Montgomery Avenue was the main street, and 11 other streets filled the roughly square boundary of the town (MacKell, 2003).

The bustling town's business buildings were made of wooden boards with false fronts. Businesses included an assayer, jeweler, photographer, and one physician. They also included a drugstore, a grocery, a meat market, one restaurant, two saloons, and a lumber mill. The town had a boardinghouse and two hotels (MacKell, 2016). Mrs. Mamie Crook ran the Hotel Montgomery, and she advertised a "nice home for miners, good board and clean rooms at reasonable rates" (MacKell, 2016).

Independence was the site of a major ore loading rail yard. Locomotives made it a noisy place with their pistons chuffing, whistles blasting, and brakes squealing. Switch engines and crews traveled around to the various mines and mills and switched ore cars out—pulling the loaded ore cars away and replacing them with empty cars. The switch crew would then assemble loaded ore cars into a train that delivered the ore to a mill. Hosley surely would have felt the deep rumbling of a train pulling loaded ore cars as it rolled by. He no doubt noticed locomotives belching plumes of thick black smoke, soot, and cinders and the smell of coal and hot valve oil as the trains passed through town. And then there was the odor of freshly applied creosote that covered the wooden railroad ties. The Midland Terminal Railway provided passenger service and stopped at the depot on First and Montgomery (MacKell, 2003).



Figure 4. Sterling Elijah Hosley, born August 12, 1901, in the Cripple Creek mining district. Unknown photographer, From the Kathleen Liddy collection, courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 5. The town of Independence, Colorado looking northwest. Photo date 1897, by Webster and Yelton, photographers. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum. CCDMA82.

The Vindicator mine, where Hosley worked, was next to the town of Independence. He worked at shaft number one, or the main shaft. The Vindicator was the fourth largest producer in the Cripple Creek mining district, and its underground workings reached a depth of 2,150 feet (Sprague, 1953).

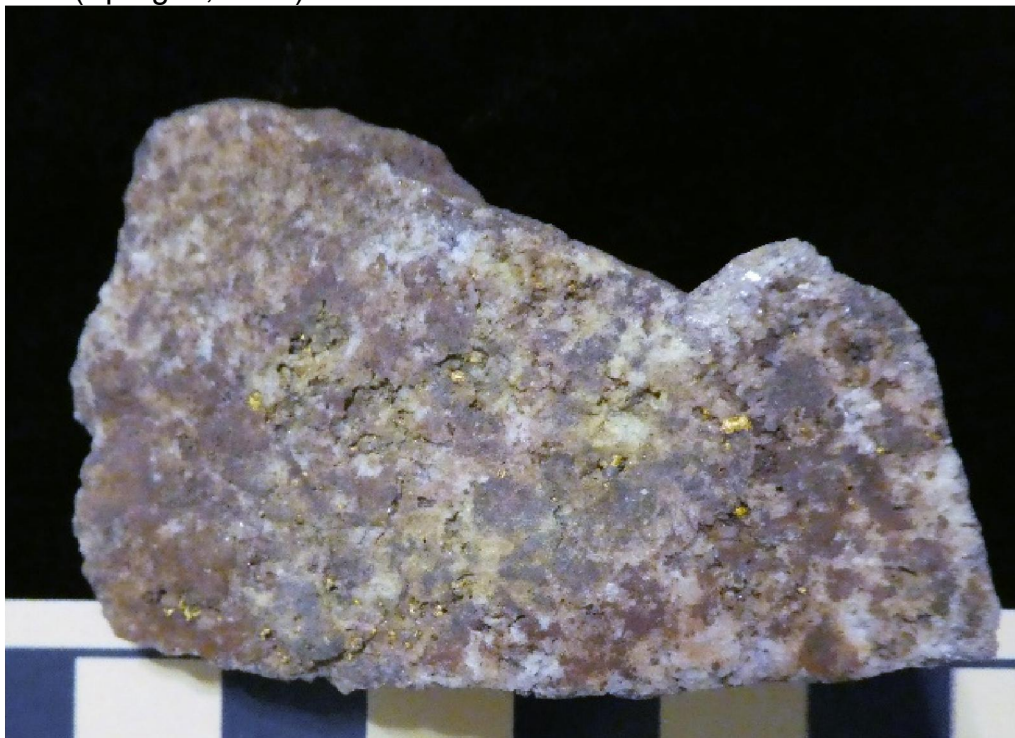


Figure 6. Gold ore specimen that William Hosley collected from a tailings dump near the Vindicator mine. Visible gold, from roasting the sample, appears on the specimen. Ruler in centimeters. From the private collection of Kathleen Liddy. Photo date 2021 by S. Veatch.

Gold production in the Cripple Creek mining district peaked around 1900—the year that Hosley came to the district—with production valued at \$18 million for that year (Taylor, 1966). *The Cripple Creek Times* reported that 55,000 people were living in the district in 1900. Cripple Creek had 25,000, Victor had 12,000, and 11 other towns scattered around the district had populations that ranged from a few hundred to over 2,500 people (Sprague, 1953). On Sunday mornings, the district's churches were full, and during the week, nearly 4,000 students attended the district's 19 schools. Men worked the mines day and night; merchants were busy selling their wares while papers were printing the news. Saloons filled with miners who bet on spinning roulette wheels and played faro or poker. Outside entertainment included boxing, horse racing, and baseball (Taylor, 1966). The Fourth of July ran for three days—the third, fourth, and fifth. There were parades each day. Men exploded boxes of dynamite to celebrate, while rock drilling contests went on in some towns in the district.

Sometimes the exciting gold rush days of Cripple Creek turned into violent nights. Hosley surely read the headlines about Sam Strong, a district mining millionaire, who owned a mining claim near the Independence mine. On August 22, 1901, there was a disturbance in the Newport Saloon on Bennett Avenue in Cripple Creek. Grant Crumley, co-owner of the saloon, was tending bar when he quarreled with Sam Strong. Crumley then blasted Strong in the face with a sawed-off shotgun. Strong fell to the floor and blood pooled around his head. The stinging smell of gun smoke filled the room as men gathered around the body in somber silence. The Sheriff charged Crumley with murder. Crumley pleaded self-defense, and a jury acquitted him. Grant, and his brothers Sherman and Newt, were thought to have been members of the notorious Dalton gang before they came to Cripple Creek (Sprague, 1953). Once in Cripple Creek, the Crumleys robbed trains, jumped drunks in dark alleys, and took part in other criminal activities (Sprague, 1953). Hosley must have thought about the dangers of raising his children in the district's wild gold-rush atmosphere.

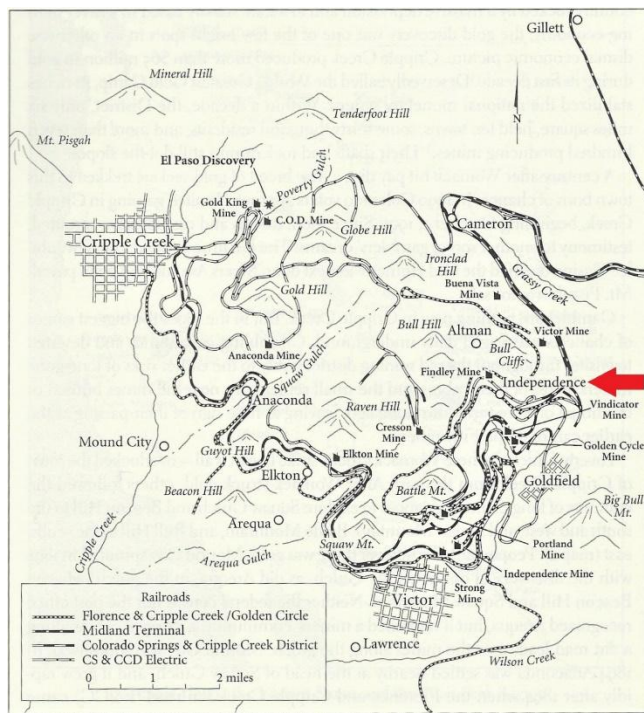


Figure 7. Map of the Cripple Creek mining district. A red arrow points to the town of Independence. The Vindicator mine is directly below the arrow. From Jameson, 1998

And there were perils underground. Hosley worked 100s of feet below the surface of the Vindicator mine, where he trudged through claustrophobic tunnels. He toiled amid creaking timbers and dripping water. Grime stained his clothes from the damp and muddy places he worked. The blackness of the mine swallowed the flickering light of his candle. The roar of blasting and the deafening racket of pneumatic drills shook him. The acrid fumes of dynamite blasts and rock dust from drilling filled the air, making him cough. Despite these conditions, he came to work to earn his paltry pay of three dollars a day.



Figure 8. Vindicator shaft number two in upper left foreground and shaft number one, the main shaft, in the background. The town of Independence is below the Vindicator property. False-fronted businesses are built into the mine tailings. Photo date circa 1900. Unknown photographer. From the Lodi Hern collection, courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.



Figure 9. A Cripple Creek panorama circa 1900. Photographer unknown. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum CCDM A82 5.

In the spring of 1902, at the end of a long day digging gold in the dim light of the mine, Hosley decided he wanted to move back to his home state of Michigan. He quit his job at the Vindicator, packed up, got on the train with his wife and son Sterling, and moved to the green

fields of his parent's farm near Howell, Michigan. Hosley no doubt struggled with raising a family in the gold camp, and he must have been relieved to return to his home in Michigan.

The days of mining were behind Hosley as he stepped off the train in Howell. With Jennie and Sterling, he traveled down a country road, with corn fields on either side, on his way to his family's farm. He became a farmer and helped his father. The Hosley family had named their place the Spring Valley Farm because there were springs on the property. They piped cold water from a spring into a long trough that went inside the milk house. Hosley and his father put cans of milk in the trough to keep them cold until the milk truck arrived to pick the cans up. Hosley and his father worked the 330-acre farm, raising crops of hay, oats, corn, and beans, along with livestock such as shorthorn cattle, horses, Shropshire sheep, hogs, and chickens. It was a busy place.



Figure 10. The Hosley family farm, known as the Spring Valley Farm, on Fisher Road, Oceola Township, Livingston County, Michigan. Photo date circa 1920s. Unknown photographer. From the private collection of Kathleen Liddy.

By 1915, William and Jennie had nine healthy children, five boys and four girls. All except Sterling were born on the family farm. Hosley said to his friends he had enough children for his own baseball team—the “Hosley nine.” All the children had chores to do on the farm.

Jennie's father, Clarence Parker, stayed in Colorado for the rest of his life. Jennie's mother, Eva, worked as a housekeeper in Boulder, until she moved to California where she lived out her remaining years.

William and Jennie celebrated their 25th anniversary July 6, 1925, at home on the Hosley farm. Some of the children who were there became ill with scarlet fever, so they quarantined everyone for the summer.



Figure 11. William and Jennie's nine children posing in an undated cyanotype. From left to right in the back row: Roger, Katherine, Clarence, Sterling, Robert (sitting on a small table) Margaret, and Martha. In the front row is Henrietta and Wilfred. Photo date 1916, Emile Bode, photographer. From the Kathleen Liddy's private collection.

In January 1927, Hosley suffered from his annual attack of pleurisy. He treated his illness by swabbing iodine on his side. However, he became sicker, developed pneumonia, and died on Jan. 27, 1927, the same year two of his children graduated from Howell High School. Jennie died Jan. 25, 1972, at a retirement home in Chelsea, Michigan. She was 89 years old.

Sterling, born in the goldfields of Colorado, was an insurance agent for Citizens Mutual Insurance Company in East Lansing. He contracted tuberculosis and suffered from its debilitating effects. In those days, there was no cure for tuberculosis. The treatment was fresh air. Sterling returned to Howell to stay at a sanatorium. Life and energy drained away from him, and he died in 1944 at the age of 43.

Roger Hosley (third child) was the last Hosley descendant to own the Hosley farm, which had been in the family for over 100 years. Roger sold the family farm in 1967, and the farm was subdivided into lots. Private homes now break up the old farmland.

William Hosley's days in Cripple Creek are gone, like pollen scattered on a breeze. He was there during the last part of Cripple Creek's golden age. Today, the district would be unrecognizable to him. With his wife's help, Hosley went on to become a successful farmer and raise nine children. Work on the farm planned his life like a railroad timetable and defined the rest of his days.

The artistry of time, family memories, archival records, and old photographs have revealed an intriguing story of William Hosley, who shared for a time in the brotherhood of hard rock miners in Cripple Creek, "the World's Greatest Gold Camp."

Acknowledgments

I am grateful for the help of Kathleen Liddy of Howell, Michigan. Liddy is the granddaughter of William and Jennie Hosley. She spent countless hours helping me with this paper. I thank Dr. Bob Carnein for improving this paper.

References and further reading

Jameson, E., 1998, *All that Glitters: Class, Conflict, and Community in Cripple Creek*: Chicago, University of Illinois Press.

Mackell, J., 2003, *Cripple Creek District: Last of Colorado's Gold Booms*: Charleston, Arcadia.

Mackell, J., 2016, *Lost Ghost Towns of Teller County*: Charleston, History Press.

Sprague, M., 1953, *Money Mountain: The Story of Cripple Creek Gold*: Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press.

Taylor, R. G., 1966, *Cripple Creek*: Bloomington, Indiana University Publications.

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Monthly Mineral Quiz

November, 2021 Mineral: Heulandite complex hydrated aluminum silicate with Ca, Na, K, or Sr dominant.



Heulandite is a zeolite mineral named for Johann Heinrich "John Henry" Heuland, a mineral collector and dealer who spent most of his life in England. As is typical of the dozens of naturally occurring zeolites, heulandite has a low SG (about 2.2), moderately low H (3.5-4), and is light colored (usually white or colorless, though it may be colored by impurities). Zeolites are important industrial minerals used in ion-exchange applications, including water purification and water softening, but natural examples are often impure and so nowadays, zeolites are synthesized for industry. They are most common in volcanic rocks, especially in tuffs and in amygdules in basalt and andesite. You may have collected several of them at North Table Mountain, near Golden, CO.

Monthly Mineral for December (Carnein photos and collection).



The December mineral, in specimens from India (left and center) and Connecticut (right)

December's monthly mineral is one that commonly occurs with the November mineral (see above). It typically occurs in sheaf-like aggregates of radiating, tabular crystals, including "bow-tie" aggregates (see photos above). It also occurs as radiating aggregates on fracture surfaces, where it resembles wavellite. Most of its properties are very similar to those of heulandite, including a vitreous to pearly luster, low hardness and SG, and light color. Colorado has abundant localities, but collector quality material is rare in the state. Minor occurrences include the Table Mountains, near Golden; the Cripple Creek district; north of Hartsel, in South Park; and the Calumet iron mine. What is this common mineral?

Eckel, E.B., 1997, *Minerals of Colorado, Updated and Revised by R.R. Cobban, et al.*: Golden, Colorado, Fulcrum Publishing.



The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts, and the great outdoors. The Club's informational programs and field trips provide opportunities to learn about Earth science, rocks and minerals, lapidary work and jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The Club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The Club meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Community Center, located on the north side of US Highway 24 on the east edge of town, sharing a building with the county highway shops. **In the winter, we meet at 10:00AM. From April through October, we meet at 9:00AM, to allow more time for our field trips.**

Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain, and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We also sponsor an annual Gem and Mineral Show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, or jewelry. Annual membership dues (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31) are \$15.00 for an individual (18 and over), and \$25.00 for a family (parents plus dependents under age 18). New memberships and renewals are only accepted Jan 1 through March 31 each year.

Our Officers for 2021 are:

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