

Subject: Baking Powder Mine

Date: Thu, 10 May 2001 15:31:21 -0700

From: "Hope&David edwards" <hedwards@ohiohills.com>

To: <gic@gis.nmt.edu>

Do you have any information on the "Baking Powder" gold mine discovered by LeRoy Edwards and his brother in the late 19th or early 20th century? Thank you very much.

David Edwards Wellston, Ohio
E-mail greyghost45acp@yahoo.com

Subject: Baking Powder Mine

Date: Thu, 10 May 2001 17:37:33 -0700 (PDT)

From: david edwards <greyghost45acp@yahoo.com>

To: Robert Eveleth <beveleth@gis.nmt.edu>

Dear Mr. Eveleth,

Thank you very much for the information you sent me on the Baking Powder. It will be a treasured addition to the information I am gathering for my children and grandchildren.

Walter White Edwards was the brother of my grandfather, LeRoy Ardis Edwards, both from Texas. They were the sons of a Cival War veteran of the 15th Alabama Infantry, Ambrose Newton Edwards.

The story goes that Walter developed tuberculosis and was advised to go to a high and dry climate. For that reason he and my grandfather went to New Mexico to prospect for gold and the Baking Powder was the result of their efforts. Supposedly the mine flooded, they could not raise the capital to start pumping, and sold the claim. It would seem from your information that the mine would have played out at the water table, so if it did flood it probably was not paying, explaining the unpaid wages.

Thank you again and if there is any other information I might be able to supply, let me know.

David Edwards

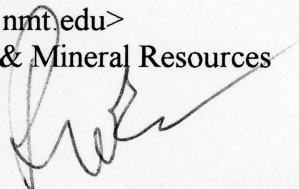
Subject: Baking Powder Mine

Date: Thu, 10 May 2001 15:10:39 -0600

From: Robert Eveleth <beveleth@gis.nmt.edu>

Organization: New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources

To: greyghost45acp@yahoo.com



Dear Mr. Edwards:

Your request to our Geological Information Center for information on the Baking Powder mine was forwarded to me. Probably fewer than a half-dozen living people in all the southwest have even heard of this property as it is one of the more obscure such in all New Mexico. I am not aware that the property was ever examined by a trained geologist or engineer (unless your Edwards relatives were such and there is no known surviving record of their work). My extensive mines and prospects files are absolutely silent in regard to the Baking Powder. Nevertheless I have noted one or two very obscure references in my research.

The Baking Powder is located in the Rosedale Mining District at the extreme north end of the San Mateo mountains in southern Socorro county, New Mexico. I have not examined the mining claim records in the local courthouse for exact dates (mainly because you are the very first individual to ever request information on the property!) but would predict the claim (or claims) was located during latter part of the 19th century -- poss. mid-1890s -- as a result of the success of the well-known Rosedale mine and discovery of the nearby White Cap.

The "veins" in the Rosedale district are actually brecciated shear zones in the volcanic (rhyolitic) rocks. The brecciated and sheared rhyolite has been recemented with a hard, bluish-white quartz and later with a clearer vein-type quartz. The entire vein mass is highly silicified and in those areas yielding the best gold values are heavily stained with the black and red oxides of manganese and iron respectively. Gold occurred in the native state in the upper oxidized portions of the vein but is very nearly absent in the sulfide portion at or below the water table. Remarkably, little or no silver is present. I would predict the Baking Powder "vein" to be similar in character to the above. Dr. Charles Ferguson's doctoral dissertation covered a large area extending from the southern end of the Rosedale District to the north well beyond White Cap and Big Rosa canyons. I asked Charlie if he knew the locality of the Baking Powder and other prospects and he indicated approximate locations for two unnamed mine workings about two miles north and northwest of the Rosedale which I feel are the White Cap and the Baking Powder. The projected location for the latter is approx. Sec3, T6S, R6W near the head of Big Rosa canyon.

Soon after the turn of the century, development on the Baking Powder had apparently progressed to the mining stage. According to a note in the Engineering and Mining Journal, 24 December 1903, p 988, the Baking Powder mine was said to be initiating "full operations," whatever that meant; Walter Edwards, undoubtedly your ancestor, was the manager. Unfortunately the operation failed to live up to expectations and within four years was facing foreclosure for \$1200 in back wages (Socorro Chieftan, 30 November 1907). The obvious conclusion is that the mine failed to develop pay ore in sufficient quantities to sustain the operation and it failed. And that is the current extent of the "historic" record!

I and my colleagues attempted to visit this prospect in May 2000, but despite our "approximate" location on the topo sheet, and a full day's search, four-wheeling, etc., we failed to locate it. I should note that the 'road' up Big Rosa canyon is, in places, a figment of the imagination -- we could have easily missed a small prospect off in the ponderosas! The Mount Whithington jeep road may pass within a mile of the mine on the west and that is the route I will next attempt.

Now that you have made a request for information, I shall keep a sharp lookout for additional data. I must yet peruse the pages of the few issues of the San Marcial Bee that have survived the ravages of time and will keep you in mind should anything materialize. Additionally I will examine the claim location records upon my next visit to the courthouse. On the other hand, I'd be most pleased to add to our

archival files any information you'd be willing to share with us from your family's papers.

Regards,

Robert W. Eveleth

Senior Mining Engineer

Curator, Mining Archives