



# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 52

Winter 2023

Number 1

## RESCUING HISTORY AT ONE OF THE EARLIEST INDUSTRIAL PARKS IN THE NATION

**W**hat happens when the site of over a century of American manufacturing and research innovation changes hands and the buildings are to be repurposed? What becomes of the artifacts of its legacy? Nela Park in East Cleveland, Ohio is a 92-acre campus-style industrial park and has been the home of GE Lighting for over 100 years. The name “Nela” is derived from the National Electric Lamp Assoc., formed in 1901, which would later be absorbed into GE in 1911. Cited as “one of the earliest (if not the first) planned industrial research parks in the nation” (*Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, Case Western Reserve Univ.), Nela Park engineers played a role in nearly every major electric lighting innovation since the site’s inception, including frosted bulbs, fluo-

rescent lamps, high intensity discharge lamps, and halogen technologies. Beginning around 2000, light emitting diode (LED) technology began to displace earlier technologies, eventually rendering these historic advances commercially obsolete.

The campus-style concept of Nela Park yielded it the nickname “University of Light.” The site was innovative for blending elements of manufacturing, research and development, education, and recreation for employees at one location. Beyond the technology itself, through the GE Lighting Institute at Nela Park, GE Lighting led the industry in the commercial application of lighting as well as training and education of users and installers of lighting. At times, pilot production of major new product types took place at Nela

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Mechele Romanchock

### In This Issue:

- Slate of Candidates for SIA Officers, 2023
- Remembering Alex Barbour, 1936–2022
- Bottles from a Pa. Mill Site
- *IA Journal* Seeking Theme Issues

*Retired GE Lighting Chief Engineer, Jim Dakin, shows off a mural depicting the relationship between historic GE lamp types to Henry Romanchock, Theo Romanchock, and Christopher Romanchock at the GE Museum of Lighting innovation at Nela Park.*

## RESCUING HISTORY (continued from page 1)

Park. Some of the buildings served temporarily as full-blown factories when major new product types were introduced. A few examples include fluorescent lamps starting in 1938, and metal halide and high-pressure sodium lamps in 1961. On-site employee amenities included a bank, barber shop, cafeteria, medical care, and recreational facilities like tennis courts, a swimming pool, and an auditorium. Specific services came and went with the times, but retired employee Jim Dakin vividly recalls the wonderful campus ambience during his tenure beginning in the 1980s. “The best part for me was daily interaction with people from all branches of the business and with all different sorts of expertise. We were all working together toward the same goals.” At its peak in 1975, 2,800 workers were employed at the Nela Park site. For more about the site’s recent history and ownership, see Eric Heisig, “GE Lighting’s Owner Selling Nela Park in East Cleveland, Closing 2 Ohio Plants” ([www.cleveland.com](http://www.cleveland.com), Mar. 9, 2022).

Designed by landscape architect Frank E. Wallis, construction of the majority of the campus buildings took place

The *SIA Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Society for Industrial Archeology. It is sent to SIA members, who also receive the Society’s journal, *IA*, published biannually. The SIA through its publications, conferences, tours, and projects encourages the study, interpretation, and preservation of historically significant industrial sites, structures, artifacts, and technology. By providing a forum for the discussion and exchange of information, the Society advances an awareness and appreciation of the value of preserving our industrial heritage. Annual membership: individual \$50; household (joint) \$55; full-time student \$20; institutional \$75; contributing \$100; sustaining \$150; corporate \$500. For members outside of North America, add \$10 surface-mailing fee. Send check or money order payable in U.S. funds to the Society for Industrial Archeology to SIA-HQ, Dept. of Social Sciences, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931-1295; (906) 487-1889; email: [sia@siahq.org](mailto:sia@siahq.org); website: [www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org).

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The *SIA Newsletter* welcomes material and correspondence from members, especially in the form of copy already digested and written! The usefulness and timeliness of the newsletter depends on you, the reader, as an important source of information and opinion.

**TO CONTACT THE EDITOR:** Marni Blake Walter, Editor, *SIA Newsletter*, 11 Esty Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467; [sianeditor@siahq.org](mailto:sianeditor@siahq.org).

between 1911 and 1913 in Georgian Revival style; additional construction followed between the 1920s and the 1950s. Construction was completed by the Austin Co. of Cleveland Heights, which according to the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, led directly to the standardization of construction methods in industrial building, and was known for its advanced handling of mechanical systems, with underground tunnels for all utilities. In 1975, Nela Park was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

GE Lighting was acquired by Savant Systems, Inc. in May 2020 and the Nela Park site was subsequently sold to a real-estate development firm in March 2022. Savant will keep a small area on the campus for the GE Lighting Headquarters, while the majority of the buildings are being repurposed by the developer in a revitalization project. The announcement of this change meant that the vast quantity of technical research material produced over a century of industrial innovation would need a new home. A group of retired GE employees from Nela Park, self-identified as the “Nela Nerds,” were contacted by Savant employee Jerry Duffy about preserving the legacy of the site. The Nela Nerds sprang into action. Dakin, along with independent glass researcher Glenn Kohnke, contacted various relevant heritage organizations about receiving artifacts and research material. They invited museum and library representatives from multiple academic, historic, and cultural institutions to Nela Park to pore through the contents of several buildings and cull materials for preservation in their respective collections. They organized several multi-day work parties at the site in June and Oct. of 2022 to review and collect materials. Savant employees Jerry Duffy, Sharon Stewart, and Kathy Dybzinski provided invaluable administrative and logistical support.

Kohnke recalls, “Saving archival material at Nela Park led to countless surprises. The staff at Nela Park simply did not know everything that was there when we started, which



**Nela Park Building 307, designed by landscape architect Frank E. Wallis. For many years Building 307 housed marketing and sales offices. Customer and application-oriented functions like these were centralized at the north end of the campus, technology dominated the south end, upper management was located in the east-central buildings, and common areas were by the west-central gate entrance.**



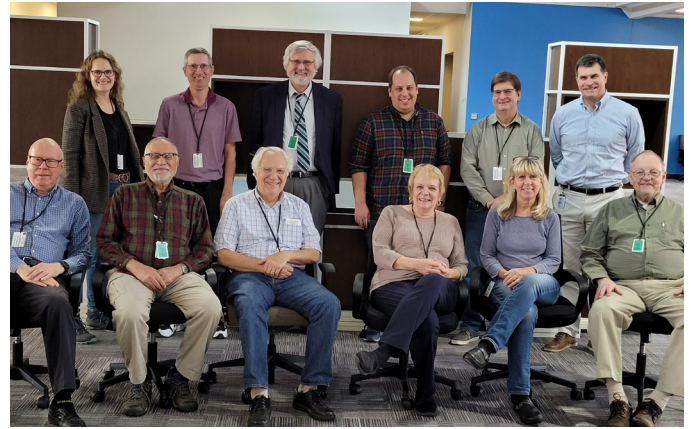
The GE Museum of Lighting Innovation at Nela Park, formerly the bank serving Nela Park employees.

is not surprising since there was material that had not been touched in decades.” Though it will take each institution considerable time to sort through and assess the contents acquired, it’s already clear there are some exciting finds. The Corning Museum of Glass’s Rakow Library rescued materials including print advertising dating back to the early 20th c., technical drawings of glassmaking plants and machinery, photographs, and lantern slides.

Curator Kevin Martin from the Hagley Museum and Library moved a truckload of collections back to Wilmington, Del. Materials acquired by the Hagley consist of research reports written by lighting researchers and engineers that cover the 1910s into the 1990s, a photo collection of GE



Glass researcher Glenn Kohnke sorts through archival material for preservation at Nela Park.



Volunteers from heritage organizations, retired GE employees known as the “Nela Nerds,” and current employees from GE Lighting, a Savant Co., participating in one of the collaborative work days to salvage historical records. Standing L to R: Mechele Romanchock, Glenn Kohnke, Hal Wallace, Smithsonian; Nicholas Zmijewski, Joe Howley, Jerry Duffy; Sitting L to R: Terry McGowan, Sri Rahm, Jim Dakin, Mary Beth Gotti, Sharon Stewart, Rolf Bergman.

lighting installations around the world, and 16-mm advertising and marketing films.

Archivist Nicholas Zmijewski, on behalf of the Industrial Archives & Library in Bethlehem, Pa., collected R&D-related materials and lighting applications in industrial settings, such as pamphlets on lighting in steel mills and mines, complementing their existing collections related to steel-making and coal mining.

The Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. has maintained the Electricity Collections, including artifacts from GE, since the 1890s. Curator Hal Wallace of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History has made several trips to Nela Park over the years to collect objects and archi-

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The next generation in IA. Henry Romanchock, age 12, takes a break from helping his parents box technical reports to enjoy charts of data.

## RESCUING HISTORY *(continued from page 3)*

val material of historical and technological value during this longstanding preservation partnership.

The San Antonio Museum of Science and Technology (SAMSAT) is developing exhibits focused on Edison and electric lighting. SAMSAT is exploring a collection of several thousand representative lightbulbs from all major manufacturers dating back to the early Edison era.

Samuel R. Scholes Library, a specialized ceramic and glass research library at Alfred Univ., received a trove of technical reports. The Director of Libraries, Mechele Romanchock, made the trip to retrieve the donation a family affair: "My husband and our two sons skipped school to box up five filing cabinets of research reports and load them into our pick-up truck. They enjoyed the opportunity to be on the document rescue crew and explore the site." The reports include records of site visits which detail work on specific plant issues such as furnace operation, metrology equipment, process issues, and machine improvements. Other topics range from challenges of manufacturing particular products to the fundamental properties of glass.

Each institution is now beginning the process of making the historical and technological information discoverable to researchers and the general public through mechanisms such as cataloging, digitization, finding aids, or interpretive displays.

Why go to all this effort at Nela Park? As Zmijewski articulates, "Industrial history touches the lives of everyone, every day, whether they know it or not. Understanding how

*(continued on page 14)*



Mechele Romanchock

**Social studies teacher and historian Christopher Romanchock examines a display of lamps in the GE Lighting Innovation Museum. Examples pictured include early incandescent, photoflash, and reflector lamps. The wooden base lamps on the top shelf are representative of Edison-era lamps from the 1880s.**

## 2023 SIA Slate of Candidates

The SIA Nominations Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the 2023 SIA elections:

### **Director** *(3-year term)*

*You will vote for three*

Christopher Fennell

Ian Hay

John Mayer

Robert McQueen

Mary Starbuck

### **Nominations Committee Member** *(3-year term)*

*You will vote for one*

John McConnell

William McNiece

SIA bylaws state that the Nominations Committee shall notify the membership of the proposed slate at

least 70 days in advance of the Annual Business Meeting. This slate will also be sent to members via email (or mail for those without an email address). Additional nominations may be made in writing over the signatures of no fewer than 12 members in good standing (dues paid for the 2023 calendar year) and delivered to the Nominations Committee chair at the address below no later than **Apr. 29, 2023**. Candidates must have given their consent to be nominated and must also be members in good standing. Ballots will be sent out in mid-May 2023. Members must have paid their dues for the 2023 calendar year in order to vote.

The 2023 Nominations Committee is Marc Belanger, Rebecca Burrow, Ron Petrie, and Saul Tannenbaum, SIA Past President (ex officio). Please direct all nominations and other correspondence to: SIA Nominations Committee, c/o Marc Belanger, Chair, 1001 S. Meadows Pkwy., Apt 1221, Reno, NV 89521; 775-399-2391 (mobile); [marcbelanger@gmail.com](mailto:marcbelanger@gmail.com). ■

# Beverage Bottles Recovered at the Site of a 19th-c. Textile Mill

Following an environmental assessment project at a historic mill in Pa., during demolition and preliminary remediation, the author found a deposit of bottles dating from the mid-19th c. and later. Subsequent archival research on both the bottles and the mill reveal details of the site's history and nearby businesses.

SIA members might recall the author's article "Industrial Archaeology and Environmental Assessments" (*IA – the Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology* 2006, Vol. 32, No. 1, 25–51). It includes 6 demolition and pre-demolition photos of Merion Worsted Mills in West Conshohocken,

Montgomery Co., Pa. The mill, located near Philadelphia, was shoehorned between the Schuylkill River and the Phila. & Reading RR. The original buildings were constructed as Conshohocken Worsted Mill in 1881, for spinning and weaving wool.

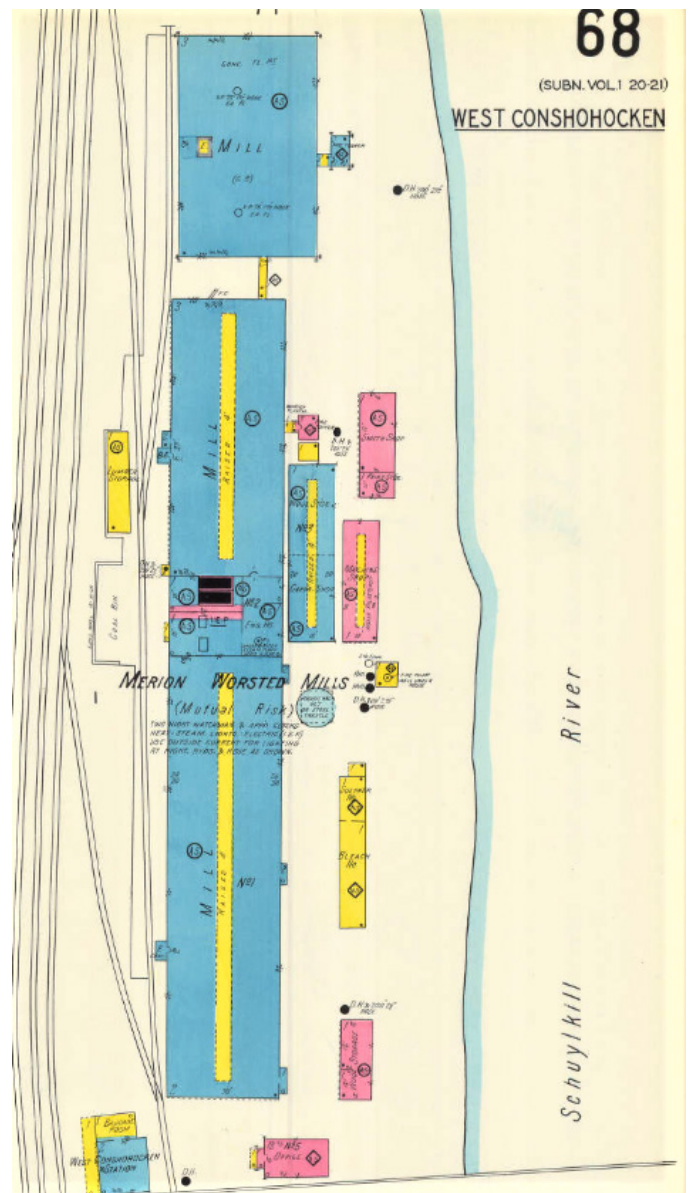
The buildings depicted on the Hexamer maps of 1882 and 1886 and the Sanborn map of 1886 differ from those depicted on the Sanborn map of 1928, which correspond to the buildings observed by the author in 1990 and 1991. Per these maps and the author's observations, the mill was evidently rebuilt as Merion Worsted Mills in 1891, possibly as a sequel

(continued on page 6)



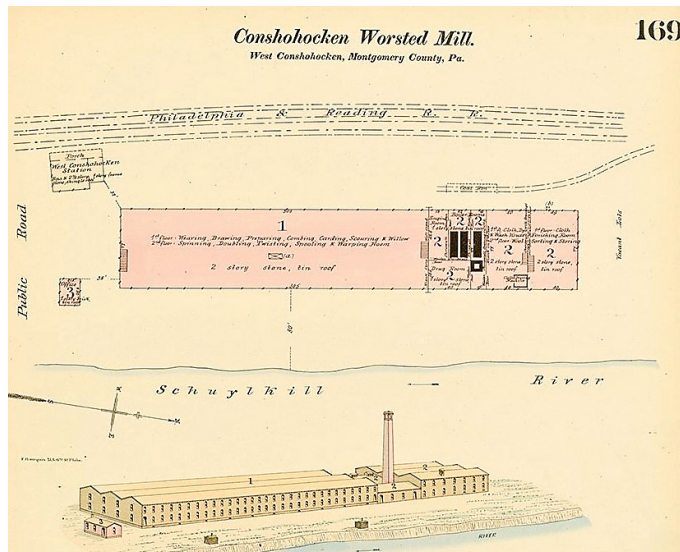
Michael Bernstern

Southwest side of the mill building viewed to the northwest, with the roof monitors, 3-story building, and boiler room smokestack depicted on the Sanborn map of 1928. Dec. 1990, shortly before demolition.



Sanborn map of 1928 of Merion Worsted Mills, showing the roof monitors, the 3-story building, and the semi-detached mill building observed by the author in 1990–91.

Big Ten Academic Alliance Geoportals



Free Library of Philadelphia

Hexamer map of Conshohocken Worsted Mill, constructed in 1881 as surveyed in 1882. The 2-story, gable-roof buildings on both sides of the boiler room do not correspond to the buildings observed by the author in 1990–91.

**BEVERAGE BOTTLES** (continued from page 5)

to the financial failure of the owner (Conshohocken Worsted Co.) in 1889 due to the death and insolvency of a major shareholder. Although Merion Worsted Mills was almost destroyed by fire in 1906 and damaged again by fire in 1907, the author located no record of a fire or flood at the earlier Conshohocken Worsted Mill that would account for a decision made by the owner to rebuild in 1891. Apparently, the rebuilding episode of 1891 represented a major investment in a new physical plant for the Merion Worsted Mills.

Manufacturing had ceased prior to the time of the Phase I environmental site assessment of Dec. 1990. Demolition occurred in Jan. 1991. The author is aware of no pre-demolition archeological survey of the property. The site is now occupied by the 300 Barr Harbor office building, built in 2001 and originally known as Five Tower Bridge.

During the site-wide demolition and preliminary environmental remediation program, the author observed an

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Michael Bernstein

Short-neck bottles from Boehret Bros. of Roxborough (Phila.), M. Lipshutz of Norristown, and Penna. Bottling & Supply Co. of Phila. The bottle at right is embossed with a depiction of Roorbach and Tucker's stopper; height of this bottle is 8 in.



Michael Bernstein

Date marker of 1891 for Merion Worsted Mills Inc., viewed from the highway bridge across the Schuylkill River in Dec. 1990, shortly before demolition.



Michael Bernstein

Blob-top bottles bearing letter-over-letter logos of the Adam Scheidt Brewing Co. of Norristown, Pa. Each logo differs from the others. Height of bottle at left is 9.5 in.

**"THE HUTCHINSON."** The Only Successful Soda Water Stopper in Use.

References: 4,865 BOTTLERS  
Who are using them in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Spain, Australia and Guatemala.

We will prosecute to the utmost extent any and all infringers, makers, buyers, sellers or users of any stopper infringing our patent.

**HUTCHINSON'S PATENT SPRING STOPPER.**  
PAT. No. 213,992 A.P.L. 8-1878  
RE-ISSUE No. 87,555 JUNE 17, 1879.

ALL OUR STOPPERS ARE WARRANTED PURE BLOCK TIN, AND HAVE OUR NAME STAMPED ON THE BOTTOM.

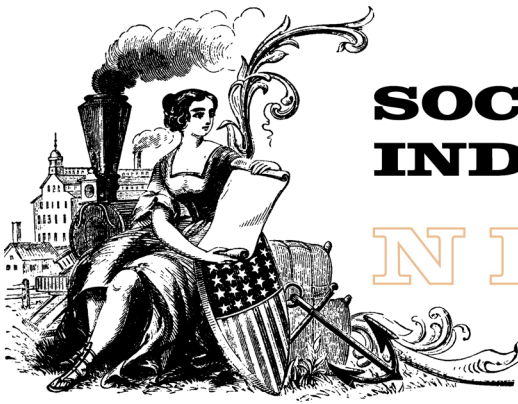
TRADE-MARK

**W. H. HUTCHINSON & SON,**  
OFFICE AND FACTORY,  
EASTERN SHIPPING DEPOT AND OFFICE,  
60 Park Place, NEW YORK. 186 and 198 S. Desplaines St.,  
W. G. SMITHERS, Manager. CHICAGO.

\$2.50 PER GROSS. FULL STOCK ALWAYS IN STORE HERE.

Advertisement for the Hutchinson short-neck bottle and patented stopper.

The National Bottlers' Gazette, Nov. 5, 1892.



# SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

## NEWSLETTER

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Vol. 52, No. 1

Winter 2023

COMPILED BY

Mary Habstritt, New York, N.Y.; Patrick Harshbarger, Wilmington, Del.;  
Daniel Schneider, Lake Linden, Mich.; and Marni Blake Walter, SIAN editor, Westmoreland, N.H.

### GENERAL INTEREST

◆ **IMPRINT, Journal of the American Historical Print Collectors Society**, Vol. 47, No. 1, (Spring 2022) is entirely devoted to a major study of J.H. Rollin Caughey (1851–1921), a little-known sketch and commercial artist for a half century after 1873. Includes Richard M. Candee [SIA] and Michael P. Conzen, *Rollin Caughey, Sketch Artist of Post Civil War America* (pp. 1–6); Richard M. Candee, 'One of the Coming Artists of America,' *Rollin Caughey, Artist - Illustrator, 1880–1884* (pp. 7–21); and Michael P. Conzen, *Rollin Caughey, County History View Sketcher to Metropolitan Newspaper Artist, 1884–1921* (pp. 22–42). The three essays jointly explore Caughey's drawings, lithographs, and engravings for both county atlases and county histories in the Midwest and East Coast, chromolithographs of N.H. industries, plus state atlases in the Midwest and West Coast. Candee explores the artist's shift to advertising chromolithographs from 1880 to 1884: breweries, a distillery, coal

pockets, a woolen textile community, a tannery, and summer hotels. Conzen's discovery of "whole-city bird's eye views" published only in newspaper annuals introduces a whole new type of his work. Two giant chromolithographic illustrations for major expositions along the Pacific Northwest after the turn of the century cap Caughey's late commercial work.

- ◆ The Center for Land Use Interpretation. **Adirondack Park: Attraction to Extraction.** *The Lay of the Land* (Winter 2022), pp. 1, 14–22. Describes past and present recreational and industrial activities in and around Adirondack Park in N.Y. The industrial side comprises the majority of the article and includes sites associated with lead and iron mining, hydropower, paper manufacture, and iron production.
- ◆ **The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association**, Vol. 75, No. 3 (Sept. 2022) includes Bob Frishman [SIA], *Benches to Factories: American Clockmaking from Colonial Times* (describing the development of clockmaking in America from craft to factory production); Maurice Farrier, *Growing Corn and Working Horses: Dust Bowl Recollections* (about farming in the 1930s and the geographical constancy of rivers); John H. Verrill, *Charles Lawton and the USS Constellation* (derived from a series of letters describing life aboard the U.S. Navy ship in the late 19th c.); Patrick Lasswell, *IOHn BASSETT and JOHN BASSETT*, and Walter W. Jacob, *Stanley's No. 90 Williams Patent Combination Gauge* (on the attributes and idiosyncrasies of particular hand woodworking tools); and Kevin Jensen, *Museum Notes: The Arrival of a Corn Harvesting Machine* (about an early step in the mechanization of agriculture in East Meredith, N.Y.).
- ◆ **Engineering Heritage Australia Magazine**, Vol. 4, No. 3 (Sept. 2022) includes Peter Tonkin, *Engineering Heritage of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct*; Geoff Lilloco and Bill Phippen, *The Amiens Gun*; David F. Radcliffe, *Otto Schumacher & His Mill Furnishing Works*; Miles Lewis, *Portable Engineering* (regarding a current proposal

### IA Seeking Theme Issues and Guest Editors

*IA, the Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology* has produced some notable and impressive theme issues over the years and would like to do more. *IA* is seeking Guest Editors to identify a theme, whether topical, geographical, or focussed on an era, and bring together 3–6 or more authors to write articles on it. Guest editors will have the full support of the editor, copyeditor, and layout, so the main task is to find the researchers and motivate them to finish and submit their projects as articles. If you would like to wrangle some authors, or suggest an idea for a theme issue with identified participants, please contact Steve Walton, sawalton@mtu.edu.

to obtain UNESCO World Heritage listing for all the surviving “portable” [prefabricated] buildings brought to Australia in the 19th c.); John Sarkissian, CSIRO’s *Parkes Telescope: 60 Years Old & Still Going Strong*; and a brief note about the Miles Lewis Heritage Building Materials Collection website (see IA on the Web in this issue).

- ◆ **IA Review** (Vol. 44, No. 2, 2022) includes Cassie Newland, *The Tools of Empire?* (a study of the many industries involved in telegraph technology); Amira Talbi and Soumia Bouzaher, *Towards Recognition of Industrial Heritage in Algeria: The Square Concrete Grain Silos of Setif*; Maria Dimitriou, *Assessing the Significance of Industrial Heritage: The Case of Volos, Greece*; David S. Johnson, *Millstone and Grindstone Production in the Pennines and North-west England: A Historical and Archaeological Survey*; Roger N. Holden, *The Work of Stott & Sons for the Linotype Company at Altrincham 2: The Housing Estate*; and Chris Wild, *Accommodating Prisoners of War: A Survey of the Weston Hostel*; plus book reviews on *Histories of People and Landscape: Essays on the Sheffield Region in Memory of David Hey*; *Oasts and Hop Kilns: A History*; *Ironopolis: The Architecture of Middlesbrough*; *Brickmaking History and Heritage*; *Fabbriche Ritrovate: Patrimonio Industriale e Progetto di Architettura in Italia (Rediscovered Factories: Industrial Heritage and Architectural Project in Italy)*; *Street Furniture*; and *The Historic American Engineering Record at 50* (IA Vol. 44, Nos. 1 and 2).
- ◆ **TICCIH Bulletin 98** (4th Quarter, 2022) includes Steven A. Walton [SIA], *Naming the Remains of Industry*; Anne-Marie Broudehoux, *The Politics of Memory in Rio de Janeiro’s Old Slave Port*; Wendy Shearer, *Planned Conservation of Fairbank Oil Fields*; Matthieu Paradis and Alain Gelly, *Industrial Heritage and Parks Canada*;

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*With Thanks.*

Hasti Tarekat, *Indarung Cement Works Protected*; Vasiliki Fragkoudi, *Sustainable Reuse of Greek Tobacco Warehouses*; Rossella Maspoli, *Symbolic Value Enhancement—The Automotive Heritage*; Norbert Tempel, *Industriekultur—A Unique Industrial Heritage Journal*; Oana Tiganea, *TICCIH Montreal 2022: Impressions from the TICCIH Congress*; TICCIH news updates including Marion Steiner, *Retooling TICCIH: 2022 General Assembly and Our Work Program for the Next Year*; James Douet, *Who Would Like to Edit the TICCIH Bulletin?*; Francesco Antonioli, *TICCIH’s Working Group on Business Archives*; conference reports: James Douet, *Petroleum Heritage Seminar*; and Toni Häfliger, *Railway Heritage Preservation Conference*; and book reviews: *Commemorating Coal Mining Worldwide*, by Margaret Lindsay Faull, reviewed by Bode Morin [SIA]; and *Art and Industry: Seven Artists in Search of an Industrial Revolution in Britain*, by David Stacey, reviewed by Betsy Fahlman [SIA].

### MINES & MINING

- ◆ Robert E. Launhardt. **The Sunshine Mine Fire Disaster, May 2, 1972.** *MHJ* (2022), pp. 20–32. The author was the mine’s safety officer at the time of the disaster and provides a firsthand account. He concludes that there was little that could have been done. A small fire in the hard-rock silver mine’s timbering—a not entirely uncommon event that was at the time thought to have little chance of becoming dangerous—rapidly spread a toxic mix of deadly smoke and fire gasses when the flames encountered polyurethane foam that had been used to seal a bulkhead. After the disaster, changes in ventilation practices and employee safety training were implemented.
- ◆ Ronald H. Limbaugh. **Mining Camp Democracy: Conflicting Interpretations of the American Democratic Tradition.** *MHJ* (2022), pp. 33–48. An examination of claims from mining camps in Beaverhead County, Mont. and Boise Basin, Idaho leads the author to conclude that histories that portray gold rush miners as egalitarian and progressive are more myth than reality. Using claim books as evidence, he shows that “the democratic phase lasted only so long as the first successful strike of paydirt. As a camp grew, the leaders quickly took over, using wealth and influence to dominate social, political and economic development.”
- ◆ Geoffrey C. Lybeck. **The Needs of the Nation and the Technology of Tomorrow: The Illinois Coal Industry, 1945–1969.** *MHJ* (2022), pp. 49–72. Researchers, engineers, and manufacturers, many associated with the Illinois Mining Institute, developed technologies that expanded the scale and control of longwall mining, bucket-wheel excavator surface mining, and plant systems for converting coal into synthetic liquid and gaseous fuels.
- ◆ Fawn-Amber Montoya and Karin Larkin, eds. **Communities of Ludlow: Collaborative Stewardship and the Ludlow Centennial Committee.** Univ. Press



of Colo., 2022. 251 pp., illus. \$37.95. How and why various groups came together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Ludlow Massacre in 2013–14. The United Mine Workers of America led the deadly strike of 1913–14 against the Colorado Fuel & Iron Co. It ended in violence when the Colorado National Guard opened fire on a tent colony of miners and their families. The essays discuss programming and digital presences that were developed to tell the story of mining and labor history. Rev: *MHJ* (2022), pp. 90–91.

- ◆ Eric C. Nystrom [SIA]. **Portrait of an Emerging Profession: A Microdata Look at Mining Engineering in America in 1800.** *MHJ* (2022), pp. 1–19. Using U.S. census data and American Institute of Mining Engineers (AIME) membership data, the definition of a “mining engineer” is shown to be fluid and regional. A large number of individuals who called themselves mining engineers did not associate with the AIME. The data is described as “a snapshot of the mining engineering profession [in 1880], as the acceleration of professionalization was firmly underway.”
- ◆ Greg Sheppard. **The Rise and Fall of the Mighty Consolidated Gold Mine.** Straub Pub., 190 pp., illus. \$17. The Mighty Consolidated Mine in Dahlonega, Ga. was the largest gold mine east of the Mississippi River during the 19th c. This volume explores the boom years following the discovery of gold in 1828 to the mine’s present-day incarnation as a tourist attraction. Rev: *MHN* (Fall 2022).
- ◆ Eleanor Herz Swent. **One Shot for Gold: Developing a Modern Mine in Northern California.** Univ. of Nev. Pr., 2021. 254 pp., illus. \$45. Using oral histories collected by the Univ. of Calif., Berkeley’s Oral History Center and documentary evidence, presents an account of the McLaughlin Mine, which produced over a billion dollars of gold from 1985 to 2002. Compliance with Calif.’s environmental laws tested the mine’s operations and profitability. When the mine closed, the land was reclaimed as the McLaughlin Natural Preserve, which is managed by the Univ. of Calif., Davis and often held up as a model of reclamation practices. Rev: *MHJ* (2022), pp. 93–94.

## WATER TRANSPORT

- ◆ Matthew F. Delmont. **Half the Battle.** *Smithsonian Magazine* (Sept. 2022), pp. 76–83. A massive explosion at Port Chicago, Calif. on July 17, 1943, a result of mishandling of munitions, was the deadliest home-front disaster of WWII. Of the more than 300 deaths, at least two-thirds were Black sailors, with significant implications for race relations in the Navy.

## AUTOMOBILES & HIGHWAYS

- ◆ Dennis Hockman. **On the Road, Take a Drive Through the Past on One of These Four Historic Routes.** *Preservation* (Fall 2022), pp. 54–57. Profiles of the National Road (Md.-Pa.), Hana Highway

(Hawaii), Montana’s Route 2 “Hi-Line,” and Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (Ala.).

## BRIDGES

- ◆ Kim Varney Chandler. **Covered Bridges of New Hampshire.** Peter E. Randall (2022). 288 pp., illus. \$39.95. Info: [coveredbridgesnh.com](http://coveredbridgesnh.com). Engaging and well-illustrated history of the Granite State’s 61 covered bridges, 46 of which are over a century old. Thoroughly researched and sourced, perhaps the most comprehensive history to date.
- ◆ John Sloan. **Superstructure Replacement and Widening of the Historic Arch Bridge over Lake Tillery.** *ASPIRE: The Concrete Bridge Magazine* (Fall 2022), pp. 38–9. A multi-span, open-spandrel, reinforced-concrete arch bridge of 1927 is widened from its original roadway width of 20 ft. to 36 ft. While this resulted in removal of the superstructure above the original arch rings, the character of the bridge was preserved. A breathable sealer was applied to the old and new concrete to create a uniform appearance among new, original, and repair concrete surfaces.
- ◆ Scott Wagner. **Sanborn, Centre, or Lyndonville Bridge.** *CBT*, Vol. 80, No. 4 (Fall 2022), pp. 7–9. Discusses repairs made, mostly in 2013–14, to a single-span, Paddleford-truss bridge of ca. 1867–73 located in Lyndonville, Vt.

## AGRICULTURE & FOOD PROCESSING

- ◆ The Center for Land Use Interpretation. **Lake Okeechobee: Florida’s Great Lake.** *The Lay of the Land* (Winter 2022), pp. 11–13. Map and text describing the impact of industry (primarily the sugar industry) on Lake Okeechobee and the district surrounding it in Fla.
- ◆ Mary Ann Ashcraft. **Mill Once Located on Sams Creek in Maryland.** *OMN*, Vol. 39, No. 4 (Fall 2022), pp. 10, 15. Profiles McKinstry’s Mill, a mid-19th-c. flour mill near Taneytown on the boundary of Frederick and Carroll Counties. The mill still stands, the last of a dozen mills once powered by water from Sams Creek.
- ◆ Tracy Lawson with Elmer Napier. **Historic Mills of West Virginia.** 35th Star Pub., 2022. 542 pp., illus. \$24.95. Guidebook to over 50 mills with historic narratives, photographs, and maps. Some are ruins, many preserved, and still others adapted as private residences, shops, and museums. Rev.: *OMN* (Fall 2022), 18.
- ◆ Scott Winthrow. **Berry Mill – A Symbol of the Rich History of an Important Mill Site.** *OMN* (Summer 2022), pp. 18–19. Historic mill complex near Greer, S.C., includes a standing flour mill and remains of a textile mill, cotton gin, and sawmill. Two metal waterwheels remain visible among the ruins.

## BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

- ◆ Thomas C. Hubka. **How the Working-Class Home Became Modern, 1900–1940.** Univ. of Minn. Pr.,

2020. 320 pp., photos. \$40. Considered a landmark study of American vernacular architecture, this book explains how the lives of the “middle 60% of U.S. residents” were changed by the acquisition of three-fixture bathrooms, modern kitchens, and private bedrooms. Industrially produced amenities, plumbing, electricity, and changes in floor plans are estimated to have impacted over 80 million dwellings. Most of the technological changes were implemented by builders and homeowners with little thought to professional architects. Rev: *B&L* (Spring 2022), pp. 108–9.

- ◆ Kathleen Moore. **Mechanicville Hydro Plant Gets New Life.** *Times Union* (July 7, 2021). [www.timesunion.com](http://www.timesunion.com). The Mechanicville hydroelectric station (tour site, 2015 Annual Conference, Albany, N.Y.) was built in 1897 and is still in operation today, after a hiatus during the late 1980s and 1990s for preservation and restoration work. The station started using some of its hydroelectric-generated power to run servers used to mine for Bitcoin, which owner Albany Engineering Corp. says is more profitable than selling electricity. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, the plant was recently nominated for landmark status in civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering. Slide show included with article.
- ◆ Sarah Fayen Scarlett. **Company Suburbs: Architecture, Power, and the Transformation of Michigan’s Mining Frontier.** Univ. of Tenn. Pr., 2021. \$55. Examines two types of Keweenaw Peninsula “Copper County” neighborhoods between 1875 and 1920—paternalistic company towns built for workers and suburban neighborhoods created by the region’s business leaders. Using the tools of cultural landscape analysis, richly illustrated with drawings, maps, and photographs, this case study in the interrelationship of industrial and suburban housing practices illustrates how the hierarchies of capitalism were built into the environment.
- ◆ Sarah Fayen Scarlett and Laura Walikainen Rouleu. **Object Lesson: Architecture at Pullman National Monument as Both an Agent of Division and Collective Identity.** *B&L*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Fall 2022), pp. 99–119. Analysis of race in the movement to preserve the famed industrial company town of Pullman, Ill., which culminated in the creation of a National Park Service-managed national monument in 2015. Discusses how a racially divided community challenged NPS staff. On one side were middle-class, mostly white, residents who had worked to preserve the southern section of Pullman for many decades, and on the other working-class, mostly Black, residents who lived in the northern section and had experienced decades of segregation. The Black neighborhood had been mostly left out of prior historic district designations and the standard narratives of Pullman’s founding and significance as a model company town. Blacks were originally excluded from working in George Pullman’s factories and living in the town, although they were hired to work as the famed

porters on the moving fleet of luxury passenger cars. Blacks did not make up a significant resident population in Pullman until the mid-20th c.

- ◆ Monica Schultes. **A Scientific Approach to Engineering Problem-Solving.** *ASPIRE: The Concrete Bridge Magazine* (Fall 2022), pp. 6–9. Profiles consulting engineers Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, which was founded in 1956 by Jack Janney who specialized in structural testing, experimentation, and instrumentation. In 1967, the firm built a laboratory in Northbrook, Ill., which remains its headquarters.
- ◆ William R. Tharp. **Roads, Race, and Retail: The Transformation of Short Pump, Virginia.** *B&L*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Fall 2022), pp. 74–98. The story of a Richmond suburb as it evolved from an 18th- and 19th-c. crossroads into a 21st-c. “edge city” because of “white flight, the convergence of interstate highways, and the opening of a massive mall complex.” Discussion of the ways large economic forces, strategic land planning, construction by developers and government, and racial relations intersect to create different experiences for residents of differing racial and socio-economic backgrounds.

## OIL & PETROCHEMICALS

- ◆ Carola Hein, ed. **Oil Spaces: Exploring the Global Petroleumscape.** New York: Routledge, 2022. 292 pp., 129 b/w illus. \$160 cloth; \$44.95 paper. Collection of 15 essays, based on a 2017 conference, focused on the relationships among the world’s primary energy sources (biomass, coal, oil, and gas), commodity flows, and cultural production. The book takes a broad view of petroleum’s “diverse spatial emanations”—defined as spaces of exploration, extraction, distribution, transportation, consumption, and mediation—in describing the physical and social geographies that have accumulated over the past 150 years and that have reinforced our current petroleum path dependency.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Ann Chen and Aaron Reiss. **The Only Living Pay Phones in New York.** *NYT* (June 5, 2022). <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/27/arts/pay-phones-nyc.html>. As “the final New York City public pay telephone” was removed in May 2022, a photographic look at some of the last remaining phone booths in the city.
- ◆ David Dufty. **Radio Girl.** Allen & Unwin, 2020. 312 pp., AUD \$32.99. A smart girl from a poor mining town who loved to play with her father’s tools, Australia’s Violet McKenzie, known as “Mrs. Mac,” became an electrical engineer, a pioneer of radio, and a successful businesswoman. As the clouds of war gathered in the 1930s, she defied convention and trained young women in Morse code, foreseeing that their services would soon be needed. Widely popular among the radio trainees, she also was respected by the defense forces and the

(continued on page 15)

# Alexander Barbour, 1936–2022



**Alexander Barbour**

Alex, recipient of SIA's General Tools Award in 2003, passed away peacefully in Ottawa, Ont., on Dec. 5, 2022. Alex was born in Dundee, Scotland, where he worked as a millwright and earned a degree in Marine Engineering from Dundee Technical College (now University of Abertay). He then sailed the world for six years on the ships of Ben Line Steamers Ltd. of Edinburgh, earning his First Class Steam certificate. In 1964, he emigrated to Canada with his English wife Rita and a "wee bairn." Alex held a teaching position as Head of Marine Engineering at George Brown College before coming to Ottawa, where he joined the department of Public Works as Chief Engineer, Marine and Industrial Conservation.

Alex's life work was about preservation and restoration of historic ships and machinery. It was a passion that took him from coast to coast in Canada, into the U.S., to a rum distillery in Martinique, and even to the Falkland Islands. He was happiest on site, wearing dirty overalls and work boots. His marine restoration projects included the Yukon stern wheelers S.S. *Klondike*, S.S. *Moyie*, and S.S. *Tutshi*. In Baddeck, Nova Scotia, his team replicated Alexander Graham Bell's Hydrofoil HD 4. His salvage work included a 2,000-ton gold dredge (Dredge No.4) out of the permafrost in the Yukon and the preparatory work to move a mothballed naval destroyer, H.M.C.S. *Haida* from Toronto to Hamilton Harbour. He worked with the original steam whistles from the RMS *Titanic* and designed the system for blowing replica whistles for the traveling *Titanic* exhibit. Closer to home he worked on restoration projects for the decorative wrought iron fences on Parliament Hill, at the Royal Canadian Mint and the Rideau Hall residence of the Governor-General of Canada, and on the preservation of an historic Tin House façade. For a number of summers Alex could also be found at Mooney's Bay in his white boiler suit with a big smile on his face stoking the fires of the Bytown Pumper, a double-decker steamboat that Alex restored and operated for conducting boat tours on a section of the Rideau Canal.

In addition to his extensive field work, Alex made a significant contribution to IA through sharing his knowledge and experience with others. He was an enthusiastic participant in SIA conferences, and was an organizer, and a highly knowledgeable tour guide, for the Yukon Study Tour in 1990. He has been active in several heritage preservation societies and was a founding member of the Canadian Society for Industrial Heritage. He made presentations on his

projects, and heritage preservation practices and techniques, at conferences of the SIA, the Association for Preservation Technology (APT), the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineers (CIMarE), and at sessions of the International Conference on the Preservation of Large Historic Vessels.

For these contributions and others, in 2003 Alex was the winner of the SIA's General Tools Award, of which colleague and "the engineer daughter he never had" Kathleen Murphy [SIA] says he was "extremely proud." His gregarious presence and depth of IA knowledge will be missed at SIA gatherings.

Alex is survived by his wife Rita and their two sons Stuart and Andrew (Lauren). He supported his sons in all their endeavors and taught them the importance of hard work, problem solving skills, frugality, and to always make time for a good laugh. He will be missed by his three grandsons Isaac, Levi, and Aaron, his workshop apprentice. As per Alex's wishes, his sons will spread his ashes on The Law in Dundee, Scotland.

*Kathleen Murphy, Robert Passfield,  
and the Ottawa Citizen (Jan. 20, 2023)*

## IA EXHIBITS

**Picturing Jersey City: Nineteenth-Century Views by August Will**, through June 18, 2023, at Zimmerli Art Museum (New Brunswick, N.J.). For over fifty years, artist August Will (1834–1910) chronicled the changing landscape of Jersey City. An immigrant from Weimar, Will settled in Jersey City in the 1850s and spent his career dedicated to documenting the physical transformation of his adopted hometown. From panoramic vistas to depictions of the growing networks of canals, railways, and factories, Will visually traced Jersey City's emergence as an urban center and captured a significant era of the city's vibrant history. Info: <https://zimmerli.rutgers.edu>.

**Robert Fulton: Industrious Revolutionary** is on view at the National Museum of Industrial History (Bethlehem, Pa.) through Aug. 13. Fascinated by art, steam engines, canal engineering, and military technology, Fulton (1765–1815) pushed the limitations of mechanical engineering. His innovations helped to spark the American Industrial Revolution, opened up new trade routes, and contributed to a major wave of globalized trade. Fulton established a pattern of technological innovation that would go on to embody American ingenuity and leave an immeasurable legacy. Visitors can view painted miniatures up close, power a steam engine, learn how a submarine works through experiencing a traditional Cartesian diver, and flip through Fulton's personal papers to get inside the mind of this industrious revolutionary. Info: <https://www.nmih.org>. ■

## BEVERAGE BOTTLES (continued from page 6)

open excavation following the removal of a heating oil underground storage tank (UST). The UST was located in the northwest area of the site, in the present-day parking lot. The material in which the tank had rested contained an abundance of mostly unbroken, embossed glass beverage



Michael Bernstein

Top of Hutter's porcelain stopper for Adam Scheidt Brewing Co. Diam. 0.9 in.



Michael Bernstein

L to R: Bottles embossed with Joseph Serwazi, Peter Serwazi (father of Joseph), and Peter Serwazi at 250 Grape St. in the Manayunk section of Phila. The base of Joseph's bottle is embossed with PUTNAM, which refers to one of Henry Putnam's patented stoppers. Height of bottle at left is 9 in.

bottles. The *bottleliferous* matrix appeared to be a compacted or otherwise solidified residual waste of undetermined composition and uncertain origin. The author collected 31 unbroken bottles and several bottle-closure devices. Many more bottles remained and might still be present.

Three basic types of beverage bottles are represented: blob tops (1840s to 1910s), short necks (late 1870s to 1910s), and crown tops (1890s to present). Four types of bottle closures were also identified: Hutchinson's stopper (patents of April 8 and June 17, 1879), Putnam's stopper (patents of Sept. 10, 1878, and Feb. 10, 1880), Roorbach and Tucker's stopper (patent of June 3, 1890), and Hutter's stopper (patent of Feb. 7, 1893). Hutchinson stoppers (two with the rubber rings intact) were found inside three of the short-neck bottles, while one disembodied Hutter stopper was also found. The Putnam stopper is evidenced by PUTNAM embossed on the bottom of one bottle.

Two short-neck bottles are embossed with the name of Nicholas Talone, at 130 South Elm St. in Conshohocken, and a crown-top bottle is embossed with 130 East Elm St., which turns out to be the correct address as confirmed by a



Michael Bernstein

Short-neck and crown-top bottles from Nicholas Talone of Conshohocken. Height of bottle at right is 9 in.

## Registration Opening Soon

### *SIA Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, Mich., June 7–11*

Plans are moving along for this year's Annual Conference, June 7–11 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Registration and tour itinerary information will be available soon on the SIA website ([www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org)), so watch your inbox or mailbox for updates.

The conference hotel and headquarters, the Embassy Suites—Grand Rapids Downtown ([www.hilton.com/en/hotels/grmaes-embassy-suites-grand-rapids-downtown](http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/grmaes-embassy-suites-grand-rapids-downtown)), is situated among historic factory structures and active industries, with dams, the riverwalk, restaurants, distillery, and a craft brewery within walking distance. The committee continues to develop tour itineraries, which will feature SIA favorites such as filtration infrastructure, a 1904-built passenger ship, manufacturing facilities, active railroads, a gypsum mine, historic bridges, and many others.

For a more detailed description, see the preview that appeared in the Fall 2022 *SIAN*, and watch for additional details coming soon from the Grand Rapids committee. We hope to see you in the “Furniture City”!



HAER MICH.41-GRARA.10-17

**Bridge Street Bridge (1904), Michigan & Bridge Sts., ca. 1908 looking northeast. Remains in use to the present.**

Sanborn map of 1928 showing a 3-story bottling house, 80 ft. long by 20 ft. wide.

Three blob-top bottles are embossed with versions of the letter-over-letter logo of the Adam Scheidt Brewing Co. of Norristown, Pa. The most common bottles found in the excavation are 6 specimens of unadorned crown-top bottles from Scheidt's "Phila'd'a Branch" located at 963 N. 9th St. in the Spring Garden section of the city. A Sanborn map of 1916 itemizes a bottling house with a beer vault, a stable, and a hay loft. A blob-top bottle from Cunningham & Co. does not bear an address, but *Boyd's Blue Book* for 1883–1884 advertises Cunningham & Co. at 1533–1535 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia as a supplier of “Bottled lager beer, porter, ale, brown stout, and mineral water expressly for family use.”

Among the bottles from the Merion Worsted Mills site, “1882” is embossed in large figures on the bottom of the bottle from Cunningham & Co., and “1898” is similarly embossed on the bottom of a short-neck bottle from P.J. Serwazi. Numbers on the bottoms of bottles usually refer to the mold numbers. However, the general chronology suggests that the numbers on these two bottles are probably the years in which the molds were designed and/or manufactured, which could also correspond to the years in which the bottles were manufactured and discarded. An embossed medicine bottle was issued by a Conshohocken druggist (McCoy's Pharmacy), whose business was established in 1888 per an advertisement of 1920.

According to the Steel Tank Institute, riveted steel petroleum storage tanks came into use during the last two decades of the 19th c. The author is unaware of the sub-

ject UST's type of construction since the tank had been transported from the site prior to the author's arrival. In 31 years of performing ESAs at industrial sites in 36 states, the author never encountered a petroleum UST that dated to the 1800s, although petroleum aboveground storage tanks are depicted on the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia on the USGS topographic quadrangle map surveyed in 1894. The UST reportedly served the semi-detached mill building that appears on the Sanborn map of 1928 or a later building that is visible on aerial photographs immediately northwest of that mill building. The semi-detached mill building was a stark concrete-block structure that undoubtedly dated to the 20th c. The Hexamer maps of 1882, 1886, and 1898, and the Sanborn maps of 1886 and 1928, note that the mill boilers were fueled with coal. No fuel oil or heating oil storage tanks are depicted on the maps of the property.

The author postulates that the UST was installed by chance in a pre-existing deposit of artifact-rich waste that originated at the mill during the 1880s and 1890s. The vertical and horizontal exposures of the excavation were too limited to reveal whether the waste had been discarded on level ground, dumped in a gully, used to fill a depression, or buried in a pit. But the waste probably was not originally deposited as backfill during the installation of the UST in the 1900s.

The author's experience in West Conshohocken in 1991 was similar to his experience in West Philadelphia in 1986 (see *SIAN* Spring 2022). Both incidents are very good examples of opportunistic, avocational IA.

Michael Bernstein

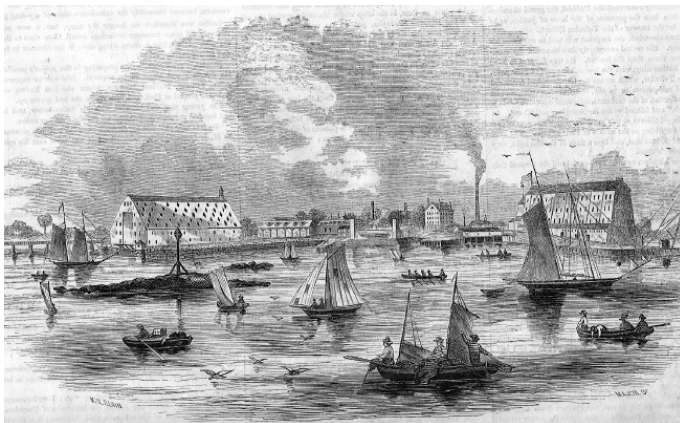
## NOTES & QUERIES

Seeking information on **late 19th-c. elevators operated by water-powered cylinders**. In 1889, Joanna [Iron] Furnace of Geigertown, Pa. (tour site, 2021 Annual Conference, Lehigh Valley, Pa.) added 15 ft. to the top of the furnace stack as it modernized to hot-blast technology. Along with adding a Weimer blowing engine, there was also a water-power hoist installed to elevate the charges 15 ft. to the new top of the stack. The elevator hoist cylinder is still in place and the feasibility of bringing this artifact back to life is being explored. Of particular interest is learning about the pumping and valving systems that would have operated this water hoist. If you can share information or point to a resource, please contact Dan Turner: [dt@turnerhydraulics.com](mailto:dt@turnerhydraulics.com) or 717-512-8127. ■

## CHAPTER NEWS

**Northern New England Chapter** is planning a spring tour that will include the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (Kittery, Maine). It will be on a Friday morning, date to be determined. Often called Portsmouth Navy Yard, it is the Navy's oldest continuously operated shipyard, founded in 1800. Today, most of its work concerns the overhaul, repair, and modernization of the Navy's nuclear-powered attack submarine fleet. The Navy will provide a tour bus with a narrator. The Yard also features a museum to explore. The afternoon tour site will feature the remnants of a mill village in Strafford, N.H. Stay tuned for further information.

Gleason's Pictorial Drawing Room Companion (Boston, 1853)



*View of the United States Navy Yard, at Portsmouth, N.H.*

**Roebling Chapter** (greater N.Y.-N.J.) held their Annual Meeting in Paterson on Sat., Jan. 28. The event began with a tour of The Art Factory in the former Barbour Flax Mill. The meeting, followed by presentations, was held in the Rogers Locomotive Storage Building. ■

## IA ON THE WEB

**DEWLine Virtual Museum** (<https://dewlinemuseum.com>). Explore the Distant Early Warning Radar Line (DEWLine), a chain of radar stations installed north of the Arctic Circle across Alaska, Canada, and Greenland beginning in 1953. Its purpose was to provide the U.S. and Canada the earliest possible warning of subsonic aircraft and missiles approaching North America from the polar region. With so few DEWLine artifacts remaining, the online museum provides a wealth of resources for Cold War historians and others who want to learn more.

**Miles Lewis Heritage Building Materials Collection** (<https://acahuch.msdl.unimelb.edu.au/miles-lewis-heritage-building-collection>). Offers insight into common construction materials and techniques in Australia in the 19th and early 20th c. 3D scans of objects enable exploration of their scale and texture (for example, the thumbprint in one of the bricks) and trace the European influences on Australian architectural methods. Especially useful to engineers involved in heritage conservation and to builders and architects engaged in conservation work.

**Watson's Mill Virtual Tour** (<http://watsonsmill.com>, "virtual tours" tab). Tour Watson's Mill, a flour and gristmill built in 1860 in Manotick, Ont. that remains active today. View 5 floors of mill equipment, including the original turbines that continue to power the mill, and read the accompanying interpretive information.

*IA on the Web is compiled from sites brought to the editor's attention by members, who are encouraged to submit their IA Web finds: [sianeditor@siahq.org](mailto:sianeditor@siahq.org)* ■

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## RESCUING HISTORY (continued from page 4)

these companies and their developments have shaped the world can go a long way towards explaining how our society has evolved, be it taller buildings from steel, clean water filtered through anthracite coal, or railroads bringing goods across the country that would have otherwise been unavailable. And it's not just about the companies but also the people that worked for them and their stories."

With thanks to Jim Dakin, Glenn Kohnke, Kevin Martin, Joe Schill, Hal Wallace, and Nick Zmijewski for contributing their time and expertise for this article and project.

*Mechele Romanchock and  
Samantha Dannick*

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST (continued from page 10)

public for her vision and contribution to the war effort.

- ◆ Stephanie Frank. **Industrial Networks and Urban Development: Kansas City's Film Row District and National Film Distribution.** *B&L*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (Spring 2020), pp. 46–64. Many major cities, Kansas City among them, had “film rows,” architecturally cohesive business districts where film company exchanges and ancillary services such as concession and poster vendors clustered to distribute films to local theaters. Kansas City's film row, a collection of about 20 buildings, is thought to be one of only two extant examples of 32 film rows that once existed. The other in Oklahoma City is much smaller.

## WATER CONTROL & RECLAMATION

- ◆ John Dean Davis. **Hope, Anger, and Engineering in a Reconstruction Landscape.** *B&L*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Fall 2022), pp. 51–73. In 1867, Congressman Benjamin F. Loan of Missouri sought the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Memphis & St. Louis RR to build a combined 200-mi. levee and RR bed from the mouth of the St. Francis River, Ark. to Cape Girardeau, Mo. While ostensibly a somewhat typical infrastructure scheme that was never built, Loan was on a Congressional committee that had oversight of freedmen's affairs, and the levee was designed to allow for draining of the Grand Champ Bottoms creating what would have been “the largest [freed enslaved] people's colony of Reconstruction.” This article explores the motivations of Loan, white military officials, and freed people in imagining a landscape that could support a multiracial democracy.

## ARMS & AMMUNITION

- ◆ W. J. Hennigan. **A Bang or a Whimper.** *TIME* (Sept. 26/Oct. 3, 2022), pp. 48–55. Practical struggles related to maintaining the U.S.'s aging intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) system, which numbers 450 missiles and 45 command hubs in Wyo., Neb., Colo., Mont., and N.D. Military technicians must fabricate and scavenge parts for mechanical and electrical systems that are wearing out and have not been updated since the 1960s. Some view the land-based strategic nuclear arsenal as obsolete, while current geopolitical tensions have motivated the Biden administration to back an estimated \$1-trillion plan to update the entire system in the coming decades.

## POWER GENERATION

- ◆ **Windmillers' Gazette.** Vol. 41, No. 4 (Autumn 2022) includes Mike Werst, *Russel Swanson's Wind-*

*King Generator Stood Tall*; A. Clyde Eide, *Unexpected Surprises in Giving Windmill Talks*; T. Lindsay Baker, *Huge Wind Machines in the 1870s and 80s: The Halladay and Wheeler's Patent Windmills and Windmill Advertising Wall Hangers*; Christopher Gillis, *Origin of Babbitt Windmill Bearings*; and book and classified ad listings. Avail: \$20/yr., published quarterly. Christopher Gillis, Editor, P.O. Box 788, Buckeystown, MD, 21717; [www.windmillersgazette.org](http://www.windmillersgazette.org).

## MISC. INDUSTRIES

- ◆ The Center for Land Use Interpretation. **Going with the Flow: A Portrait of Amazon Fulfillment in the Southland.** *The Lay of the Land* (Winter 2022), pp. 1–4. On the geography and the internal and external systems and machinery of Amazon fulfillment centers in southern Calif., including land use histories for some of the facilities' locations.
- ◆ Ellen Ruppel Shell. **The Legend of the Music Tree.** *Smithsonian* (Apr./May 2022), pp. 104–116. Guitars fashioned of mahogany from a particular tree that was over 500 years old are among the most prized in the world. A rare glimpse into luthier craft shops where the wood has been carefully seasoned and held in reserve for decades.

## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>B&amp;L</i>	= <i>Buildings &amp; Landscapes</i> , Journal of the Vernacular Architecture Forum
<i>CBT</i>	= <i>Covered Bridge Topics</i> , published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges
<i>IA Review</i>	= Journal of the Association for Industrial Archaeology (U.K.), <a href="http://www.industrial-archaeology.org">www.industrial-archaeology.org</a> .
<i>MHJ</i>	= <i>Mining History Journal</i> , published by the Mining History Assn.
<i>NYT</i>	= <i>New York Times</i>
<i>SCA</i>	= Society for Commercial Archeology
<i>TICCIH</i>	= <i>The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage</i> , <a href="http://ticcih.org">ticcih.org</a>

**Publications of Interest** are compiled from books, articles, and digital media brought to our attention by you, the reader. SIA members are encouraged to send citations of new and recent books, articles, CDs, DVDs, etc., especially those in their own areas of interest and those obscure titles that may not be known to other SIA members. *Publications of Interest*, c/o Marni Blake Walter, Editor, SIA Newsletter, 11 Esty Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467; [sianeditor@siahq.org](mailto:sianeditor@siahq.org). ■

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## CALENDAR

### 2023

**Apr. 12–15: National Council on Public History Conference, Atlanta, Ga.** Info: <https://ncph.org>.

**Apr. 12–16: Society of Architectural Historians 76th Annual International Conference, Montréal, Canada,** followed by virtual sessions, Sept. 20–22. Info: <https://www.sah.org/2023>.

**May 16–21: Railway and Locomotive Historical Society Annual Meeting, Sparks, Nev.** Info: <https://rlhs.org/WP/>.

**May 17–20: Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Conference, Plymouth, Mass.** Info: <https://vafweb00.wildapricot.org>.

**May 22–25: 2nd International Conference of Mining and Underground Museums, Cracow Saltworks Museum, Wieliczka and Zabrze, Poland.** Info: [www.icmum.pl](http://www.icmum.pl).

**May 31–June 4: Amused in Allegheny: 46th Annual Society for Commercial Archeology Conference and Tours, Erie, Pa.** Info: [sca-roadside.org](http://sca-roadside.org).

**June 7–11: SIA 51st ANNUAL CONFERENCE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.** Info: [www.sia-web.org](http://www.sia-web.org).

**June 8–11: Mining History Assn. Conference, Socorro, N.M.** Info: [www.mininghistoryassociation.org](http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org).

**June 22–24: Construction History Society of America 8th Meeting, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.** Info: <https://www.chsa8thmeetingurbanachampaign.org>.

**July 21–23: Textile History Forum 2023, Lone Rock Farm, Marshfield, Vt.** Info: <https://thistlehillweavers.com/rabbit-goody/>.

**Sept. 1–6: Association for Industrial Archaeology 50th Anniversary Conference and Seminar, University of Bath, U.K.** In-person and Zoom options. Info: <https://industrial-archaeology.org>.

### 2024

**Apr. 17–21: Society of Architectural Historians Annual International Conference, Albuquerque, N.M.** Info: [www.sah.org](http://www.sah.org). ■