

# Minerals and Mineral Resources

By  
G. Stinson Lord



Pure Gold in Quartz  
Bedford and Orange Streets, Abington  
Also Just Inside Weymouth Line



Growth of Bog Iron upon a Boulder  
Extensively Mined from 1771 to 1809  
Collector G. S. Lord. Great Pond.  
Drought of 1965

The first account of A Weymouth Mineral Resource was by Thomas Morton who lived at Wessagusset in the 1622 Colony. In his book, *New English Canaan* (1637), his statement, "There is good Limestone," was not believed by the Massachusetts Colony. Yet we find in our Town Meeting record of 26 January 1666; "Thomas Dunn shall have six pole of land next to Randall's to make lime pits" (quarries).

The Braintree Iron Works used Weymouth bog iron ore in their furnace according to a 1644-45 Inventory. Our town meeting of 2 March 1690/91 "Voted to let Mr. Hubert (Hobart) dig Moyne (Mine) on the town commons." Great, Whitman's and Whortleberry Ponds yielded considerable bog mine ore from 1771 to 1809. Most of it went to Abington (now Whitman) to make cannon balls, 1775-76, and churchbells. The Weymouth Iron Company inherited the Old Arc Lot Mine from their predecessors 1837-38 to 1888 plus, but imported the rest of their ore. The limonite from their mine was used for making shovels.

We also had a Mineral Paint Mine (ochre). I recall many houses painted "Cowlick yellow" color; the Clarence Fearing house on Grove Street was the last, in the 1930's. The powder sold for three cents (Burnt Umber) and six cents (Yellow Ochre).

The Old Silver Mine (1870's?) presented their total output to the largest share holder, in the form of a silver spoon. Then the operators, "Folded their tents like the Arabs, and silently STOLE AWAY!" Later prospecting by the author proved that this abundant ore is the richest in the state. Houses were built over it, since, however.

There was a Gold Mine operating near Bedford and Orange Streets, in Abington, in 1889. Some of these gold-bearing quartz veins crossed our Weymouth line. The late Clement Bates of 500 Front Street, worked with "The Old Painter" in the Fore River Shipyard, just before World War I, who used to mine enough gold there "to feed and clothe him every winter"!

The quartz veins in the Middle Cambrian slates of the Idlewell Railroad Cut have yielded some beautiful transparent quartz crystals. These adorn collectors' cabinets all over the country. The late Clarence W. Fearing, our famed M.I.T. geologist, of South Weymouth, discovered a large cavity full of these, when the second railroad (inside) track was put through in 1897-98. He found a monazite (rare-earths) crystal at that time which was used by the great mineralogist, Charles Palache of Harvard, in his "Calculations by the Goldschmidt Two-Circle Method, in Studies of the Monoclinic System." This was when Professor Fearing discovered a new mineral, microcline. Another monazite crystal found at Haddam, Connecticut by my friend Professor Alfred C. Lane of Tufts College, "Grandfather of Atomic Energy," figured with our crystal, in the method of dating the ages of rocks, in this, one of the first steps into the "Atomic Age." Some of our quartz crystals are "paper-thin" and have been used in the study of how to grow them for transistors.

"Weymouth's rocks will speak out, and . . . may rival Plymouth Rock's Story of the Pilgrims." H.B. Reed. (1923) *Hist. of Weymouth*.

Old Weymouth Silver And  
Mineral Paint Mine  
"Prince" Mine

