Special Collections and University Archives

Chris Reese and Denise Weber Coal Miners Collection
Manuscript Group 139

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Chris Reese and Denise Weber Coal Miners Collection, Manuscript Group 139  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives  
8 boxes; 8 linear feet

**Historical Note**  
This collection represents the history of the towns along the Ghost Town Trail including Claghorn, Rexis, Vintondale, and Wehrum in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Denise Dusza Weber is a retired school teacher and graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). She has written several books about regional history including Delano’s Doman: A History of Warren Delano’s mining towns of Vintondale, Wehrum, and Claghorn (1991), Call Number: F159 .V54 W43 1991; and Vintondale (2008), Call Number: F159 .V54 W436 2008, both of which are in Special Collections and the Circulating Collection of the IUP Libraries.

**Scope and Content**  
The collection is housed in 7 archival boxes. The collection includes archival documents, ledgers, oral history interviews, VHS video cassette tapes, photographs, DVDs, floppy disks, cassette tapes, and forms. In Series II, the glass plate negatives of buildings and people in Vintondale were removed from the collection and placed in special storage. This collection contains photographs and other documents related to coal mining in and around Vintondale, Pennsylvania, including the communities of Claghorn, Dilltown, Nanty-Glo, Rexis, Vintondale, and Wehrum.

For more photographs of this region in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, see Manuscript Group 74: Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission Collection (MG 74 Series A Subseries I Box 20A Folder 24) which contains photographs of company towns and mine operations owned by the Lackawanna Coal & Coke Company in Claghorn, Rexis, Vintondale, and Wehrum.

Videos of Vintondale, Pennsylvania, are available on You Tube including: 1938 firemen convention https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQ1HzSw9Yus and Vintondale in 1938 Part 1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svdEr9mbn9w and Vintondale in 1938 Part 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tG64oUOaAk

**Series Description**  
The Denise Weber Coal Miners Collection includes photographs and videos of oral history interviews with coal miners and their family members in and around Vintondale, Pennsylvania.

**Series I: Oral History Interviews and Research**  
**Series II: Photographs and Memorabilia**  
**Series III: Oversized Items**

**Provenance**  
Donated by Denise Dusza Weber.

**Restrictions**  
None.
Processor
This collection was initially processed by Chris Patterson in 2005. New material was added by Denise Weber. The collection was re-housed and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on July 17, 2017.

Container List

Series I Oral History Interviews and Research
Box 1 Oral History Interviews and Research (10 VHS tapes, 1 folder)
These interviews were conducted by Christopher Reese as part of a class project. Denise Weber assisted in arranging some of the oral history interviews
1. Coal Mining Slides Provided by Denise Dunsza Weber of IUP Special Collections
2. Lewis and Aileen Ure
3. Sam Carnabuci Interview Tape #1
4. Sam Carnabuci Interview Tape #2 – Denise Dusza Weber Interview
5. Joseph Corti Interview Tape
6. William Martin Interview Tape #1, Nanty Glo, June 25, 1997
7. William Martin Interview Tape #2, Nanty Glo, June 25, 1997
8. Julius Morey Interview Tape, June 2, 1997
9. George Skubik Interview Tape, July 1, 1997
10. Lloyd Williams Interview Tape, July 1, 1997
12. One Baseball photo circa 1910

Series I Oral History Interviews and Research
Box 2 Oral History Interviews and Research (17 DVDs, 2 floppy disks, 2 cassette tapes, 1 folder)
1. Dr. Carl W. Bordas Interview, November 6, 2006 (DVD)
2. Dr. Carl Bordas Interview, January 25, 2008 (DVD)
3. Dr. Carl Bordas Interview Cassette Tape #1
4. Dr. Carl Bordas Interview Cassette Tape #2
5. Irwin Marcus Interview, January 25, 2008 (DVD) see Manuscript Group 116
6. Fausold Family – IUP Report, pages 1-50 (see Finding Aid for Manuscript Group 7)
7. Fausold Family – IUP Report, pages 51-end
8. Blairsville, Indiana County 1 (A-C), also Clymer II (DVD)
9. Homer City, Lucerne, Indiana County II (H-L) (DVD)
10. Saltsburg, Indiana County III (O-T) (DVD)
11. Clymer Archives I (DVD)
12. Clymer Archives II, Towns A-H (DVD)
13. Clymer Archives III, Towns H-Z (DVD)
14. Sagamore (DVD)
15. Indiana Archive IIa (DVD)
16. Indiana Archive IIb (DVD)
17. Indiana Archive III (DVD)
18. Archive III with Indiana Fair (DVD)
19. Indiana County History (DVD)
20. College I – Postcard Archive (DVD)
21. College II – Postcard Archive (DVD)
22. Oral History Interview Release Forms, January 2008

Series II Photographs and Memorabilia
Box 3 Photographs and Memorabilia from Vintondale donated by Denise Weber (39 folders)
These materials were collected by Denise Weber while researching Delano's Domain: A History of Warren Delano’s Mining Towns of Vintondale, Wehrum, and Claghorn.
1. “The Busy Blacklick Valley” by Charles Hanson in 1904 transcribed by Jack Bartok in 2007-newspaper article
2. Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company (These original documents were among Vinton Colliery Company folders found discarded after the Vintondale Inn was torn down in the 1960s. Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company operated the #5 mine, and Webster Griffith was a lumberman from Ebensburg.)
   a. Agreements
      i. Webster Griffith and Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company, December 27, 1903
      ii. Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company and Commercial Coal Mining Company, December 10, 1904
      iii. Copy Agreement between Commercial Coal Mining Company and Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company for furnishing compressed air, July 28, 1905
      iv. Webster Griffith and Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company, December 27, 1905
   b. Correspondence
      i. President of the Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company to J.C. McGinnis, Treasurer of the Cambridge Bituminous Coal Company, May 2, 1906
3. Claghorn (ghost town along the Ghost Town Trail. Opened in 1903 by the Lackawanna Coal and Coke Company, it closed a year later. In 1917, the Vinton Colliery re-opened the mines, which closed by 1924. Houses were occupied into the 1930s.)
   a. Photographs
   b. Negatives
   c. Trestle and other photographs, 1922
4. Delano Family in New York – Courtesy of the FDR Library at Hyde Park, New York (Warren Delano, maternal uncle of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was the major investor in the Vinton Colliery Company.)
   b. Stun Valetje – home of Warren Delano III in Barrytown, New York, no date
5. Dilltown Photographs
6. 1913 Every Day Almanac and Home Helps, First National Bank of Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
7. Iron Furnaces (near Vintondale)
a. Buena Vista Furnace photographs, 1995
b. Eliza Furnace Mounted photograph, 1890s (Eliza Furnace produced pig iron form 1845-1847 and preceded the lumber and coal mining industries in the Blacklick Valley by 40 years.)
c. Eliza Furnace Photographs, 1990’s
8. Graceton Coal and Coke Company correspondence with Robert Fisher, Vinton Colliery Company lawyer, 1935 (Graceton Coal and Coke was operated by the Vinton Colliery Company between 1920 and 1936.)
9. Lackawanna Coal & Lumber Company, Scranton, Pennsylvania
a. Agreements
   i. Lackawanna Coal & Coke Company and Webster Griffith, timber land, December 28, 1905
   ii. Letters between Warren Delano and Charles L. Hower about the purchase of the Lackawanna Coal & Coke lands by the Vinton Colliery Company, 1905
b. Company envelope, n.d.
c. Lackawanna Coal & Coke Company Daily Time Reports, Washery Outside, 1923
10. Nanty-Glo, Pennsylvania
a. Photograph of Railroad Trestle during 1977 Flood
12. UMWA
a. Button: Welcome President W.A. “Tony” Boyle, Vice President Titler, Secretary-Treasurer Owens, UMWA District No. 6
b. UMWA Constitutions, 1944, 1948, 1960
c. UMWA Instructions to Local Unions and Districts in regard to Death Benefits, May 1, 1950
d. UMWA correspondence to the Honorable Harold L. Ickes, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, wage agreement within the framework of the so-called Ickes-Lewis agreement, December 11, 1943
13. Vinton Colliery No. 6 Photographs (1)
a. Mining Operations
b. Vinton Colliery No. 6
c. Vinton Colliery No. 6 Construction, 1906 (1)
d. Vinton Colliery No. 6 Construction (2)
e. Vinton Colliery No. 6 Tornado, 1919
f. Vinton Colliery No. 6 Mining Operation
g. Vinton Colliery No. 6 Washery Postcards
14. Vinton Colliery No. 6 Photographs (2)
a. Photographs of the Vinton Colliery No. 6 taken by Chief engineer John J. Huth
b. 1940 Vinton Colliery Company Bankruptcy and Shutdown
15. Vinton Colliery Company Agreements, 1905-1910 (1)
b. Copy Lease between Vinton Colliery Company and Cambridge Bituminous Coal
Mining Company, March 31, 1905
   c. Copy Agreement between Cambridge Bituminous Coal Mining Company and Vinton Colliery Company covering lease of Coal Plant, December 29, 1905 (envelope only)
   d. A.A. Bennett and G.H. Thompson, sale of timber and bark, January 17, 1906
   e. Vinton Lumber Company and Frank George, sale of timber and bark, February 13, 1907 and December 6, 1906
   f. D.B. Stauft and Vinton Colliery Company, November 4, 1909
   g. Agreement Abstract between Postal Telegraph Cable Company and Vinton Colliery Company for maintenance of loop between Vintondale and Chichoree, May 17, 1910.
   h. Agreement between Vinton Lumber Company and Vinton Colliery Company for rental of houses in Rexis, November 1, 1910.

16. Vinton Colliery Company Agreements and Correspondence, 1915-1959 (2)
   a. Agreement between Johnstown Telephone Company and Vinton Colliery Company, August 24, 1912 (envelope only)
   c. Reopening of Vinton Colliery, n.d.
   d. Nona Clyde, widow of Robert Clyde, and Vinton Colliery Company, March 10, 1915
   e. Lease of Thomas Griffith Heirs, 1931-1933
   f. Lease Agreement between Vinton Colliery Company and the Indiana Smokeless Coal Company, 1935
   g. Sheriff’s Sale: public sale at the Warehouse, Collins Fuel Company in Vintondale, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, 1959

17. Vinton Colliery Company
   a. Stationary
   b. Pay envelopes
      i. John Morey, 1930-1931
   c. Receipt for Jack Huth in account with the Vinton Colliery Company, 1929


19. Vinton Lumber Company Agreements, 1905

   a. One Dollar voucher for merchandise, n.d.
   b. Letter from the Vinton Supply Company to the George Washington Company, 1935
   c. Vinton Supply Company receipt for the Windber Construction Company, 1936
   d. Vinton Supply Company receipt for the Windber Construction Company, 1936
   e. Letter from the Vinton Supply Company to the Wheatley Mayonnaise Company, 1937

21. Vintondale – Accident Reports (Mine), 1943-1945
   a. Employer’s Report for Unemployment Compensation signed by Julius Morey, Financial Secretary, UMWA Local No. 621, 1943
   b. Vinton Mines, Miners and Cause of Accidents, 1943
   c. Accident Report at Vinton Mine No. 1 for Eli Abramovich, 1945


23. Vintondale Photographs – Buildings and Grounds (1)
a. Aerial Views
b. Vintondale Signs and Views
c. Buildings
d. Buildings (2)
e. Vintondale Washery and Washery building fire, 1945
f. Company store
g. Narrow Gauge Railroad
24. Vintondale Photographs – Buildings and Grounds (2)
a. Buildings and people, n.d. (1900s)
b. Identified buildings and people, n.d.
c. People unidentified, n.d.
d. Ruins of buildings and structures
e. Road Marker between Vintondale and Black Lick
f. Churches
g. Vintondale, 1977
25. Vintondale Photographs – Church
   a. Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 1902
   b. Sts. Timothy and Mark Roman Catholic Chapel, 1996 (same building as 1902)
28. Vintondale High School
   a. Commencement Program, 1934
   b. Commencement Program, 1936
   c. Play Program, “High Pressure Homer” by Bruce Brandon presented by the Senior Class, 1941
   d. Commencement Exercises, 1944
   e. Vintondale High School Yearbook Vintonian, 1946
29. Vintondale – John Huth Receipts
   a. Receipt from the International Textbook Company in Scranton, Pennsylvania, 1907
30. Vintondale Inn and Mike Farkas, 1919-1934
   a. Agreement between Warren Delano and Albert Fleitzer about rental of Vintondale Inn, March 7, 1912
   b. Postcard of the Vintondale Inn, 1919
   c. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Liquor License Joseph A. Shoemaker, 1919
   d. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Liquor License Mike Farkas, 1920
   e. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Liquor License Mike Farkas, 1933-1934
   f. Hotel Liquor License, 1934
31. Vintondale – Maps
   b. Miscellaneous maps showing Blacklick Creek, n.d.
32. Vintondale – Miscellaneous
   a. Entertainment – Unidentified program, free beer, whiskey, pop, and popsicles, n.d.
33. Vintondale – Julius Morey Correspondence and Receipts
   a. Letter from Vintondale State Bank to John Morey, n.d. (1924)
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c. War Ration Book signed by Julius Morey, n.d. (1940s)
d. Office of Defense Transportation, Gas Ration Certificate, 1944
e. Receipts for Julius Morey, 1956
f. Correspondence
   i. Homecoming, “History of Strongstown, Pennsylvania,” Historical and
      Genealogical Society of Indiana County to Julius Morey, September 17, 1960
34. Vintondale – Newspaper Article
35. Vintondale Photographs – People
   a. Identified
   b. Identified
   c. Not Identified
36. Vintondale Photographs – Schools, Students, and Teachers
   a. Vintondale High School – people identified
37. Vintondale Photographs – James Balog, Sr. and James Balog, Jr. with Denise Weber,
   Documentary, April 2017
38. Vintondale Photographs – Sports Teams
   a. Photographs
   b. Mounted
   a. Stationary, n.d.
   b. Membership dues, 1948
c. Letter from UMWA District No. 2 to dissolve all local unions, 1973

Series II Photographs and Memorabilia
Box 4 Glass Plate Negatives of Vintondale (2 folders) – Fragile
   a. Men standing in doorway on porch of new Superintendent’s House
   b. Miners with mule above ground
   c. Man standing by pond and trees
   d. Vinton Colliery Insurance Map
   e. Vinton Colliery Insurance Map
   f. Man standing in doorway
   g. Men standing and seated
   h. Miners with surveying equipment
   i. Men standing and seated
   j. Miners with surveying equipment
2. Glass Plate Negatives: Vintondale – Buildings and Construction, no dates
   a. Railroad cars, tracks, and construction
   b. Mining operation with railroad tracks and housing
   c. Railroad tracks and housing in the background
   d. Coke ovens (top)
   e. Building being constructed near the Power House and smoke stack
   f. Mine tracks and Mine entrance
   g. Coke ovens (side)
   h. Building being constructed
Series II
Box 5 Photographs, Documents, and Memorabilia (33 folders)

Vintondale and Wehrum
1. Ghost Town Trail: Red Mill, Lackawanna 3 & 4, Rexis, near Vintondale
2. Flooding and Projects
   a. Vintondale Bridge and Railroad Trestle, 1995-1997
   b. Laurel Run Cleanup, 1997
   c. Vintondale Flood Reclamation Work, 1992
   d. Three Springs Reclamation Project, 1997
   e. Malcolm Cowley (1898-1989) PHMC Marker on Route 422 dedicated in 1994
3. UMWA Vintondale Local Union #621 Receipts, Julius Morey, Secretary, 1941-1946, 1948-1950
4. UMWA Vintondale Local Union #621 Receipts and Correspondence, 1942-1949
5. UMWA Vintondale Local Union #621 List of dues to be collected, 1949-1950
6. UMWA Vintondale Local Union #621 Stationary, 1930s and 1940s
7. UMWA Vintondale Local Union #621 Employer’s Report for Unemployment Compensation, 1942, 1944-1948
8. UMWA Vintondale Local Union #621 Employer’s Tax Returns, 1942-1948 and Individual Tax Return Forms, 1948 and 1949
11. Tire or Tube Application, War Price and Rationing Board, 1943
12. Vintondale Borough Notice to all Residents, Garbage Disposal, 1966
13. Newspaper Articles, 1940s-1987
   b. Views of Recent Vintondale Fire, n.d.
   c. Vintondale Church Organized 50 Years Ago, n.d.
   d. Vintondale’s Beautiful Honor Roll Memorial, n.d.
   e. Photograph of Vintondale’s Main Street Looking East, July 1944 and View of Vintondale, 1941
   f. Among 22 Dead in Plane Crash: John Burgan, 38, Native of Vintondale, Tribune Democrat, April 9, 1951
   g. Shandor left winning legacy in Valley of the Vikings, Paul Shandor, football coach at Blacklick Valley High School, Tribune Democrat, March 11, 1987
15. Birth Certificates, 1910-1911
16. Birth Certificates, 1911-1912
17. Birth Certificates, 1912-1914
18. Birth Certificates, 1914-1915
22. Death Certificates, 1906-1910
23. Death Certificates, 1910-1911
24. Death Certificates, 1912
25. Death Certificates, 1913-1914
26. Death Certificates, 1913, 1915
27. Death Certificates, 1915-1916
28. Death Certificates, 1916-1917
29. Death Certificates, 1918
30. Death Certificates, 1920-1921
31. Photograph: Wehrum – Buildings
   a. View, 1926
   b. Ruins
   c. Buildings and grounds identified
   d. Buildings
   e. Buildings and structures including Wehrum Dam
32. Photographs: Wehrum – Buildings (Mounted)
   a. Washery, Shaft and Coal bin, Lackawanna No. 3, 1922
   b. School children in front of school
   c. Washery No. 4 before and after fire in 1914
33. Photographs: Wehrum – People
   a. People identified
   b. People identified
   c. Wehrum School with students identified, 1928

Series III Oversized Items
Box 6 Oversized Items (1 blueprint, 2 ledgers and 2 photographs)

Vintondale, Claghorn, and Cresson

1. Blueprint of the trestle over Blacklick Creek, Vinton Colliery Company, Clanghorn, Pennsylvania, T.W. Hoff – Chief Engineer, March 31, 1922 (revised April 6, 1922)
2. Vintondale Inn Ledger, Proprietor Albert Fleitzer, October 1, 1910 to January 17, 1912 with advertisements for the Vintondale Inn, Duquesne Beer, and other Cambria County businesses.
5. Photograph: UMWA National Executive Board with John L. Lewis, May 1955 (rolled)

Series III Oversized Items
Box 7 Oversized Ledgers (3 ledgers)

1. UMWA Local Union #621, Dues and Payments, 1933-1947
2. UMWA Local Union #621, Accounts, 1941-1944
3. UMWA Local Union #621, Dues and Payments, 1944-1957
4. UMWA Local Union #621, Financial Secretary’s Ledger, 1933-1959
Series III Oversized Items
Box 8 Oversized Ledger (2 ledgers)
   1. Vintondale Tax Records, 1910
   2. Vintondale Inn Hotel Register, 1922