



Special Collections and University Archives

**Chris Reese and Denise Weber Coal Miners Collection
Manuscript Group 139**

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Last Modified December 7, 2017**

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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=sydEr9mbn9w> 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 December 7, 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
11. *Stone-Stack Smelting Furnaces in Westmoreland County* by J. Paul Harman, April 1952.
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, 2 folders)**

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
23. Oral History Interview: Mable Updyke (worked in the Vintondale Colliery Office and in Wehrum) and Mrs. Miriam Kranich, August 3, 1982 (daughter of Samuel Brett, company store)
 - a. Audio Cassette Tape
 - b. Audio CD (digitized)

Series II Photographs and Memorabilia

Box 3 Photographs and Memorabilia from Vintondale donated by Denise Weber (42 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.*

Volume I, 1789-1991. c. 1991

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.)
 - a. Algonac – Delano Family Home in Newburgh, New York, 1872.
 - b. Stun Valetje – home of Warren Delano III in Barrytown, New York, no date
 - c. Delano Family Gathering in Newburgh, New York on July 13, 1889. Birthday of Warren Delano III. Warren Delano II and wife Catherine Lyman Delano in the center with Franklin Delano Roosevelt in back, 2nd from left, Sarah Delano Roosevelt next to FDR, Warren Delano III on right.

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 from 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
11. New Boston Land Company Financial Records, 1925 and 1927
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
 - e. President Emeritus Lewis Dies (1969). *United Mine Workers Journal*, 80(12). In memory of John L. Lewis (1880-1969), International President of the UMWA from 1917-1960.
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)
 - a. Liens against the Vinton Colliery Company, Vinton Land Company, Vintondale Amusement Company, 1905
 - 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. Stauff 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 Raxis, 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)
 - b. Copy Mortgage between Vinton Land Company to the Pennsylvania Company, August 1, 1916 and Copy Lease between Vinton Land Company and Vinton Colliery Company, July 31, 1916
 - 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
 - ii. Julius Morey, 1931, 1937-1938, 1942-1944, 1951, 1954, and 1959
 - c. Receipt for Jack Huth in account with the Vinton Colliery Company, 1929
18. Vinton Land Company Financial Records, 1925 and 1927
19. Vinton Lumber Company Agreements, 1905
20. Vinton Supply Company, 1935-1937
 - 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
- 22. Vintondale – Baloz Bagu Delivery Company paper bag, n.d.
- 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)
- 26. Vintondale – Family Stamp Book, n.d. (1929)
- 27. Vintondale – Flood, 1977 and Tornado, 1998
- 28. Vintondale High School
 - a. Commencement Program, 1934
 - b. Commencement Program, 1936
 - c. Commencement Program, 1938
 - d. Commencement Program, 1939
 - e. Play Program, “High Pressure Homer” by Bruce Brandon presented by the Senior Class, 1941
 - f. Commencement Exercises, 1944
 - g. 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
 - a. Master Map of Bracken and Shuman Run Watersheds, 1981
 - 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)
 - b. U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Mines Certificate of Additional First-Aid Training, 1938
 - 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
 - a. Funeral Notice – Temetos, n.d. (in Polish)
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 – Schools and Students
 - a. Photographs
 - b. Mounted
39. Vintondale Photographs – Sports Teams
40. Vintondale – United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Local No. 621, 1948 and 1973
 - a. Stationary, n.d.
 - b. Membership dues, 1948
 - c. Letter from UMWA District No. 2 to dissolve all local unions, 1973
41. English translations of Hungarian Reformed Church Records, 1916-1960
42. Legal Size: Hungarian Reformed Church records (copies), the originals are in the Hungarian Reformed archives at the Bethlen Community Home in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, 1916-1960, the Hungarian Reformed Federation of American (HRFA), <https://www.bethlen.com/>

Series II Photographs and Memorabilia

Box 4 Glass Plate Negatives of Vintondale (2 folders) – Fragile

1. Glass Plate Negatives: Unidentified people in Vintondale, 1906
 - 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 (34 folders)

Vintondale and Wehrum

1. Ghost Town Trail: Red Mill, Lackawanna 3 & 4, Rexis, near Vintondale
2. Flooding and Projects: Photographs
 - a. Ruins of Lackawanna #3, 1990s
 - b. Cambridge Bituminous Coal: Ghost Town Trail, 1995
 - c. Red Mill Bridge, Rexas Branch of the Ghost Town Trail, 1995
 - d. Vintondale Ghost Town Trail, 1995
 - e. Vintondale Bridge and Railroad Trestle, 1995-1997
 - f. Laurel Run Cleanup, 1997
 - g. Vintondale Flood Reclamation Work, 1992
 - h. Three Springs Reclamation Project, 1997
 - i. 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
9. Coal Miner payment card and statement of earnings, 1945, 1965-1966
10. Vinton Coal and Coke Company Check Stubs, 1944 and Death Benefit Fund, n.d.
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
 - a. Birdseye View of Vintondale, Including Tipple and Works of Vinton Coal & Coke Company, n.d.
 - 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. Vintondale High School, 1939-1940
 - f. Photograph of Vintondale's Main Street Looking East, July 1944 and View of Vintondale, 1941
 - g. Among 22 Dead in Plane Crash: John Burgan, 38, Native of Vintondale, *Tribune Democrat*, April 9, 1951
 - h. Shandor left winning legacy in Valley of the Vikings, Paul Shandor, football coach at Blacklick Valley High School, *Tribune Democrat*, March 11, 1987
14. Birth Certificates, 1906-1910
 15. Birth Certificates, 1910-1911
 16. Birth Certificates, 1911-1912
 17. Birth Certificates, 1912-1914
 18. Birth Certificates, 1914-1915
 19. Birth Certificates, 1916-1918
 20. Birth Certificates, 1916, 1920-1921
 21. Burial Permits, 1906-1916
 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
 34. Minutes and Attendance of Wehrum Reunion
 - a. Notebook, 1960-1989
 - b. Notebook, 1981-1990 (last reunion)

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, Claghorn,

- 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.
 3. Store Account Ledger includes: priest's account, April-November 1915 and church donations, 1915 and 1948-1949, pages 19-21; automobile expenses, 1916-1918, pages 24-29; accounts received and paid, 1920, 1944 and 1954, page 30-41; coal orders, 1945-1947, pages 42-43, and accounts received and paid, and automobile expenses, 1954-1961, pages 46-65.
 4. Photograph: Northern Cambria Second Annual First Aid Meet, June 18, 1913, Cresson, Pennsylvania. Under the direction of the Bituminous Committee of the Pennsylvania YMCA. Photograph by William Chadderton, Gem Studio, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.
 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