communities upon the loss of their resource or its market; the common occurrence of the ghost town; the need to either commute or migrate significant distances to work. All of these things, which westerners take for granted, strike Dublin and Licht as both unnatural and unfair.

Face of Decline addresses a very significant subject—in both mining and industrial history—through an important case example, but it does so unevenly. It handles some things very well, but misses other opportunities. The authors gave extended attention to two important aspects of the social transformations caused by decline: the alteration of sex roles, as women became an increasingly important component of their families' paid economies; and the decline's differing influence on older and younger generations. But the effects of the decline upon different ethnic groups, if any, go unmentioned. Since ethnic groups usually came to mining districts in waves, one wonders if "last hired, first fired" had any influence on particular groups. Aside from noting the absence of racial conflict due to the absence of blacks in the region, this entire subject goes unexplored.

Also curious is the authors' failure to examine other obvious indices of social distress in the face of decline. Dublin and Licht made no attempt to analyze marriage and divorce records, crime rates (including, most significantly, domestic violence, murder, and suicide), graduation rates, or school attendance figures. The figures for all of these categories are both available and comprehensive in the years following the Great Depression, which are the heart of this study.

Such information could have helped the authors sustain their findings (matched by this reviewer's research) as to the resilience of people in a declining economy. Residents willingly made decisions factoring a standard of living against such things as attachment to place or occupation, then adjusted their lives accordingly. Some accept a lower standard of living to remain in a place or among kin, while others make the opposite choice, but people do adapt, largely successfully, in the face of decline.

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Colleen Whitley (ed.). ***From the Ground Up: The History of Mining in Utah.*** Logan: Utah State University Press, 2006; 506 pp., numerous b&w ill., b&w and three fold-out color maps, notes, bib., author bios., ind., cloth, $34.95. ISBN: 0874216397.

From the Ground Up undertakes the ambitious mission of summarizing Utah's long and varied mining history. Subjects run from the celebrated, such as Bingham Canyon and the uranium boom, to less-heralded but important industries like coal mining and saline production (the latter constituting over a quarter of the value of the state's industrial-minerals production in 2002). These are generally corporate and production histories, with much geology, and some social, labor, ethnic, and a touch of environmental history.

The book is laid out in three sections. The introductory portion features a general geological treatise about the state that is fairly accessible to the lay reader; a general overview of Utah's mineral production; a biography of Patrick Edward Connor, the most significant early figure in discovering and developing Utah's mineral resources; and a chapter on Utah's mining legends and folklore. The second section contains chapters on the saline, coal, uranium, and beryllium industries. The final part of the book contains biographies of Utah's major mining districts: Iron County, Bingham Canyon, Silver Reef, Alta, Park City, Tintic, San Francisco, and Uintah.

Nineteen authors contributed to this volume. They include mining history's singular and refreshing variety of historians, scientists, and industry officials, many of them Utah natives. *From the Ground Up* is extensively illustrated, with three black-and-white photo sections contain-

ing images of the industry and community life, black-and-white maps interspersed throughout the chapters, and three nifty colored foldout maps showing the non-metallic, energy, and metalliferous resources of Utah.

Several authors discuss the relations between agrarian Mormons and resource-extracting gentiles, the obvious fault line in Utah's territorial history. Brigham Young's famous proscription of precious-metals mining, which he feared would foster greed and disharmony, did not apply to other materials that might help the colony, such as iron, coal, and salt. Church members dominated salt harvesting from the Great Salt Lake into the twentieth century, both for the territory's own uses and for export. (Much coarse salt went to Butte, Montana, for use in chlorination.)

Sometimes the two groups cooperated to mutual benefit, with Mormon farming towns supplying gentile mining communities within Utah and in the surrounding region. In other cases, such as Connor's disputes with the Church hierarchy, Mormon and gentile values clashed overtly. This division over mining began to dissolve with the arrival of the transcontinental railroad, which brought the outside world to the isolated Deseret in 1869.

Closer editing of *From the Ground Up* would have caught a few unfortunate errors—"International Workers of the World" and the U.S. "Defense Department" in World War II, to cite two—and a stronger editor's voice could have made the work more cohesive. The editor offers a brief introduction, but without transitions or a summation the book reads as a series of independent articles. The same problem reoccurs visually. About half of the chapters on regions have a very handy little outline map of Utah at the beginning showing the location under discussion; the rest, inexplicably, do not. These criticisms aside, this is a laudable and, one hopes, exemplary publication. Every mining state should have one.

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Michael J. Makley. ***The Infamous King of the Comstock: William Sharon and the Gilded Age in the West***. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2006; 291 pp., b&w illus., bib., ind., cloth, $34.95. ISBN: 0874176301.

William Sharon died a decade before populist reformers and muckraking journalists launched a national crusade against "malefactors of great wealth." Though little-known nationally until one of his cast-off mistresses filed an embarrassing suit for divorce while he was a U.S. senator, Sharon could well have served as the prototype for the "robber baron" image. This lively biography of the lusty but little-known western financier tries to steer clear of stereotypes, but what emerges is one of the more egregious examples of insatiable avarice in the formative years of American capitalism.

Like more famous business moguls of the Gilded Age, Sharon's character was complex and somewhat contradictory. He gave alms to the poor and dressed like a preacher, but was as clever as a card shark and full of deceit. Rising from rags to riches in San Francisco before arriving in Nevada in 1864 as branch manager for the Bank of California, he was unscrupulous and manipulative, arrogant and vindictive, greedy for wealth and seemingly indifferent to the pain his sharp business practices caused others. Yet when forced to intercede after the Bank's failure in 1875, his organizational skills helped bring order out of financial chaos, and journalists hailed him as a hero.

Mining historians will appreciate the book's clear exposition of Sharon's part in building the Bank Ring in Virginia City, and his battles with Adolph Sutro and the Bonanza Kings. The author attributes the growth of Sharon's predatory milling, mining, and transportation empire to careful planning, shrewd management, and insider trading, along with cynical disdain for the public interest, but luck played a role in timing his risky speculations to match the success or failure of